Rev. Robert Chambers	1 — 33
	523
Rev. Wm. N. Chambers	34 — 288 2532 x
Mrs. C. P. W. Chambers	289 — 302
Miss Effie M. Chambers	303 — 321
Rev. Royal M. Cole	322 — 517
Mrs. L. C. Cole	518 — 532

Rev. Robert Chambers

1 – 33

5 East 115 St. New York,
March 4. 1890.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

I dont know whether you have late news from Erzroom. Under date Jan. 17, my brother writes that the Week of Prayer commenced rather discouragingly but ended in a shower of blessing. A scandalous case had produced division & bitterness, the native pastor had resigned, much of my brother's time for three months had been devoted to vain attempts at healing divisions & allaying strifes. "The Erzroom people & church have taken fire. What we have laboured at in vain for three months & had given up as a hopeless task has been brought to pass in three days & we stand amazed at the Spirit's work. We are rejoicing in almost perfect harmony in the church. Many touching reconciliations have taken place. Nearly 40 of the men & 25 of the women have made confession & with tears have asked for prayers. Twenty three young men have asked prayers & have pledged themselves to serve the Lord. So strange it all seems to us who have longed & prayed for such a work

this hard field, that it is hard to
ealize it is not all a dream."

Of another part of the field he says:" ~~The~~
here is deep feeling there also, & Mr. B
making restitution of ill-gotten gains
20 years ago."

Jan. 24 he writes:- "A great deal
ad been accomplished when the in=
luenza struck us. The pastor,
igh-school teacher, & myself are all
aid aside. In every family from
ne to five are under the "influence".
Thus the good work has been suddenly
rrested."

Jan. 30. "The influenza is still raging.
t is reported that from 15 to 20 deaths
ccur in the city every day. Cholera
reported near Tabriz. It may reach
zroom in the summer."

I hope the Prud. Com. may be able to
pplement to some extent the regular
timates by granting some of the
ontingents especially for the work
Russia.

Mr. Daniels & I had a full month
Ohio.

Mrs Chambers is just recovering

om a severe attack of Quinsy.

I have no change otherwise to report in her state of health.

We join in most cordial regards to Mrs Smith & yourself.

Yours Sincerely.

R. Chambers.

bers, S

arch 4, 1890

rch 5

Winsted, Con. Mch. 10. 1890.

My dear Dr. Smith:-

I was glad to get yours of 5th inst. & to learn of the Prud. Com's action in the matter of our Russian work. After writing you I saw, in Mr. Daniels' hands, advance sheets of Miss'y Herald containing my brother's letter from Erzroom. I am sorry not to have been able to ~~send~~ report more contributions for Shushi. The fact is that the appointments which Mr. Daniels has been making for me have fully occupied my time & given me no chance to glean in ~~outside~~ byways except in the couple of instances reported you. Sums of money handed me in these tours, even though presumably contributions over & above ordinary donations, I have felt that I should hand over to Mr. Daniels hands. I hope still to have the opportunity to make a special appeal for Shushi in quarters where it would not take from the Board's income.

With very best wishes, Yrs sincerely,

R. Chambers.

Rev. R. Chambers, S

New York, March 4, 1890

Rec'd March 5

Winsted, Con. Mch. 10. 1890.

My dear Dr. Smith:-

I was glad to get yours of 5th inst. & to learn of the Prud. Com.'s action in the matter of our Russian work. After writing you I saw, in Mr. Daniels' hands, advance sheets of Miss'y Herald ontaining my brother's letter from Erzroom. I am sorry not to have been able to ~~and~~ eport more contributions for Shushi. he fact is that the appointments which Mr. Daniels has been making for me ave fully occupied my time & given e no chance to glean in ~~outside~~ byways xcept in the couple of instances reported o you. Sums of money handed me in hese tours, even though presumably con=ributions over & above ordinary donations, have felt that I should hand over to Mr. aniels hands. I hope still to have he opportunity to make a special appeal or Shushi in quarters where it would ot take from the Board's income.

With very best wishes, Yrs sincerely,
R. Chambers.

Rev. R. Chambers, 2

Winsted Mar. 10, 1890.

Recd Mar. 11.

5 East 115 St.,
New York, Mch. 17. 1890.

My dear Dr Smith:-

Mr. Bartlett writes me that
he ~~to~~ has written you with reference to
the possibility of my taking up work in
myrna. As to the need there you are
nformed. Mrs Chambers & I are
ery sorry indeed to be detained from
ur own field, but under present
ircumstances we do not see our
ay to return to Erzroom. The
octors say to Mrs Chambers, as I have
ritten you before, "Take good care of
ourself & wait. Dont think of a
urgical operation unless life becomes
burden. The tumor may possibly be
bsorbed. It may be one year, it may be
ears. It may give little trouble, it may
ive much &c". We seem no nearer
solution of our problem than we were
year ago. The methods of travel
ecessary to be adopted in the Erzroom
ield & the inaccessibility of skilled
edical advice & attendance when ~~&~~ necessary

are conditions which make it appear (as one medical man expressed it) foolhardy for Mrs Chambers to return there in her present state.

Are the reasons which we consider sufficient to detain us from Erzroom of such as to detain us from the work in a station (other things being equal) where Mrs Chambers would be more favorably situated? We do not think they are. I have therefore said to Mr. Bartlett that we are ready to consider the Smyrna proposition. I should be glad of your thought on the matter.

With very best wishes,
Yours sincerely,
R. Chambers.

Rev. R. Chambers. S

New York, March 17. 1890.

Rec'd March 18.

Rev. Robert Chambers.

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5 East 115 St.,
New York, Apr. 15. 1890.

Dear Dr. Smith:- Rec'd Apr. 17.

I enclose you a cheque for $15.00 Of that sum $12.00 are from a Presbyn Sab. Sch. Class in Scranton, - the same class that forwarded $8.00 some time ago. This class pledges $4.00 per month to the work in Russia. I send it to you to be used for the purchase of the needed building in Shushi. The remaining $3.00 is for my brother's private a/c. Be kind enough to have Mr. Ward so credit it.

I should be obliged for a receipt for the $12 - to send on to Scranton.

Mr. Daniels & I reached home last night from a successful tour in Western New York.

Funk & Wagnalls, through Mr. Edwin Bliss, propose that I give

e equivalent of three days work
r week until Sept. on the New
Miss'y Encyclopaedia & offer me
10 - per week for that amount of work.
I have spoken with Mr. Daniels about
t & find that I can still so arrange as to
ly
ll the appointments he expects to have
or me during the Spring & Summer —
hich appointments will of course
e fewer than they have been during the
inter. Before making such an
rrangement I should like your
onsent to it. In that case my
family would remain ~~in the city~~ with me
through the summer — spending some
f their time at the seaside. The
increased expense in living in so
doing will perhaps offset or nearly
so the addition to my income. Would
the Prudential Committee be willing to
Continue me my present allowance
— not making any deduction on account
f what I may get for my work on the
Encyclopaedia?

This request is made only in view of

the hope that the way may speedily e made clear for us to look forward to our return to Missionary work (in Smyrna or other suitable place) in the fall.

With very best wishes,

I am

Yours sincerely,

R. Chambers.

Rev. R. Chambers

97 East 116 St., May 17. 1890.

My dear Dr. Smith Rec'd May 20.

I have to thank you most heartily for yours of 26 ult. The Prud. Com. has been most kind in its consideration of my request. And their opinion in the matter of Funk & Wagnalls proposition seemed to me quite just. The firm does not see however that it can offer more, as they requests me to give my time as I can i.e. either every week, or at such intervals as I have the time to give. Now I am reluctant not to do this work both because I can thus earn the extra money & relieve the Board to that extent and also because of the opportunity it gives me to get an insight into the work & a comprehensive view of the missionary ground. I am just about to commence the article of the A.B.C.F.M. – history, constitution, fields occupied, present state of the work in each – an article of about 10,000 words.

May I ask you to refer me to ~~th~~
~~any~~ authorities on the subject wh
I should not overlook. I can fi
Dr. Anderson's works & the Heralds,
Sketches at the Bible House here.

I enclose you a letter from
brother, giving a view of the state o
the Erzroom field, which howev
is already very familiar to yo

Mr Daniels & I go to East Har
Conn. today.

With very best wishe
Yours gratefully & sincer
R. Chambe

Rev. R. Chambers 6 S

97 East 116 St. June 21. 1890.

Rec'd June 26

My dear Dr. Smith:-

I have yours of 19th. Our original proposition was an unordained *medical* missionary. Failing that I suggested to Mr. Macallum the thought of going out unordained. The *one* advantage would be that suggested. A *clergyman* is not allowed to enter Russia without special permission, and that permission has been definitely and decidedly refused to the Erzroom ordained missionaries. The Russian part of our field is assuming a very interesting phase, and missionary oversight is desirable. On the other hand may be urged, 1. it is an experiment and might not after all serve the purpose. The missionary, even unordained, ~~unordained~~ would still be subjected to scrutiny in Russia, while the *medical* man having a *patent* excuse for his visits, would have fewer questions to answer. 2. The miss'y unordained would suffer in his standing before the churches

Turkey. To that might be answered that
ractically his standing in Turkey is determined
t by his ecclesiastical equipment but by
is relation to the Am. Board. The title he
ears is not Rev. but missionary, and no
ne would look behind the Board's commission.
The fact of his being technically unordained
~~[illegible]~~ might not, in my judgment and feeling, in=
terfere with his right to administer the
acraments and even take part in the ordination
of others, and enjoy all the rights and standing of
a missy of the Board. Are the rules of
the Board ~~[illegible]~~ comprehensive enough
to cover technical irregularities for the
ake of a needed phase of the work. It would
f course be competent for any church there,
having its attention called to the matter
~~coming to a knowledge of that fact~~
o refuse his right to administer the sacra=
ments to its members, but that would be un=
likely, to say the least, and the same might be done in the case of an ordained man. 3. He would be depri=
ved of his proper standing in the ministry
at home. Could not a recognition service
be held by a Council called for the purpose,
and he by such means gain the practically
valuable part of that standing? It is

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so worthy of consideration that the
nnual Meeting of the Mission might
roceed with the service of ordination
henever it appeared best on the whole
do so. It is true that Mr. Mac=
llum would not be able to work effectively
Russia for a couple of years, as he will
eed that time to get the language and gain
xperience, whereas he can at once do much
n association with the other missionaries
in the Turkish part of the field. And ~~by~~ ere that time comes
the medical man proposed may be forthcoming.
On the whole, while I feel that if it were
ny case I should like to try the experiment,
et I cannot urge another to do so.

I hope Mr. Macallum will be able to
start for the field as soon as possible.
My brother expected to leave Erzroom
on the 13th inst. Miss Preston it seems
has failed in health. I am distressed to
hear of such failure. May the Divine
Guidance be with us all.

Yours sincerely.

R. Chambers.

P.S. Yesterday I forwarded to D. Stro
address maps of the Erzroom field, p
pared by one of our Erzroom boys. I
be glad of a copy of the two sections
are published.

I enclose again $8.00 from the Pre
Sunday School in Scranton for Ru
R.

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American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

MISSIONARY LITERATURE:
LEAFLETS, MAPS, CONCERT EXERCISES, COLLECTION ENVELOPES, REPORTS, &c., CONSTANTLY ON HAND.
SUPPLIED ON REQUEST.

REV. C. H. DANIELS, DISTRICT SECRETARY,
NO. ~~30~~ 121 BIBLE HOUSE,
NEW YORK.

July 10. 1890.

My dear Dr. Smith:-

I received a note from one of the Church Committee of 1st Cong'l. Church, East Hartford, Conn. saying that at a meeting on Monday the Church and Society had decided to give me a call, offering me $1600 and a parsonage, with a months vacation. The call, he said, would be sent in a few days. Thus in a few days I may have to face the question of severing my present relations with the Eastern Turkey Mission & with the Board. The nearer I approach that probability the greater seems to me the responsibility I must take upon myself in the decision. My only relief is in the fact that my way seems closed. I have sought the guidance of Divine Providence & I believe the Heavenly Father will keep me from serious mistake. I will not present my resignation to the Pru'd. Com. until the last possible moment.

With very best wishes
I am
Yours sincerely, R. Chambers.

Filed July 16

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

MISSIONARY LITERATURE:
LEAFLETS, MAPS, CONCERT EXERCISES, COLLECTION ENVELOPES, REPORTS, &c., CONSTANTLY ON HAND. SUPPLIED ON REQUEST.

REV. C. H. DANIELS, DISTRICT SECRETARY,
NO. ~~39~~ 121 BIBLE HOUSE,
NEW YORK.

97 East 116 St.
July 12. 1890.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.,
Congl. House,
1 Somerset St.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

I have received from East Hartford the call of which I have already written you. I have written that I have it under consideration & that I hope to answer some time next week as to my acceptance of it. I do not think of settling before Sept. I enclose my resignation to the Prud. Com. asking that it take effect ~~Sept~~ Aug. 31. I should like an early consideration of it so that I may be in a position formally to answer the East Hartford Church. Under the circumstances it seems to me Providential leading and I am quite inclined to accept this call. I look and pray for the Divine guidance.

With very best wishes,
Yours sincerely R. Chambers.

Filed July 16

9

97 East 116 St.
New York, July 15: 1890.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

I have yours of the 12th and will wait till I hear from you.

Yours most sincerely,
R. Chambers.

Rev. R. Chambers. S

SERIES 4.

UNITED STATES
LETTER SHEET
ENVELOPE

[illegible] July 14,

IF NOT CALLED FOR
IN TEN DAYS
POSTMASTER WILL PLEASE
RETURN TO

R. Chambers
97 E. 116 St.
New York, N.Y.

Rec'd July 16, 1890.

N.Y.
JUL 15
9 AM
90

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D
Congl House,
No 1 Somerset
Boston, M

U. S. PATENT, JULY 1, 1879.

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

MISSIONARY LITERATURE:
LEAFLETS, MAPS, CONCERT EXERCISES, COLLECTION ENVELOPES, REPORTS, &c., CONSTANTLY ON HAND. SUPPLIED ON REQUEST.

REV. C. H. DANIELS, DISTRICT SECRETARY,
NO. ~~39~~ 121 BIBLE HOUSE,
NEW YORK.

97 East 116 St.
New York.
July 18. 1890.

My dear Dr. Smith:–

I received yours in re Trebizond and have to say in reply that I have just intimated to the East Hartford church my declination of their call. And I have to ask you to be kind enough to withdraw or suppress my resignation sent the other day. I do this not because I feel that I am ready to take hold of Trebizond with hope of success there, but I felt that accepting the Hartford call would mean my permanent separation from the mission field, which pressed itself upon me as a ~~too~~ possible turning from the path of duty. Your cordial letters helped me to decide that it is my duty still to persevere in the mission cause and wait if necessary. I sent your letter about Trebizond to Mrs Chambers who is visiting in Canada just now. I am sure she feels with me that if

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

MISSIONARY LITERATURE:
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REV. C. H. DANIELS, DISTRICT SECRETARY,
NO. ~~30~~ 121 BIBLE HOUSE,
NEW YORK.

the Prud. Com. feels it very desirable that Trebizond be still held in case of Dr. Parmelee's removal therefrom we ought to be and will be ready to accept the charge. I should rather wait a little longer however than have a place sought for me ~~which~~ about the occupation of which the Prud. Com. and the Mission, or either of them, should have doubts.

With very best wishes,

Yours sincerely
R. Chambers

New York, July 18, 72

Rec'd July 19.

97 East 116 St. New York, July 26. 1890.

My dear Dr Smith:-

If there is any prospect of our going to Trebizond, or elsewhere in Turkey, this fall there is a request I should like to make. Mrs Chambers has one unmarried sister in Winnepeg, Man., whom she is very anxious to ~~say~~ see before leaving. I do not think it judicious for Mrs Chambers to take such a journey, but we have been thinking of sending for the sister to come east to Ingersoll. She can get away in August for that purpose, but not later. Though in narrow financial circumstances she did come two years ago when we reached the country. This time I shall feel that I must help pay her expenses — say one half, which would amount to perhaps $25 or $30.— I will not involve myself in this expense unless it is quite desirable that every preparation be made now so that we will have no regrets to interfere with a start this fall. May I ask you for your advice in the matter.

With very best wishes,

I am

Yours sincerely,

R. Chambers.

Rev. R. Chambers.

New York, July 26, '90.

Rec'd July 28.

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97 East 116 St.,
New York, Aug. 4. 1890.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

My brother was to sail from London on Wednesday last via the Germanic. He is anxious to see Mr. Macallum. He thinks he can give him some points that will be useful to him, in the present condition of affairs. When does Mr. Macallum sail?

With best wishes

Yours Sincerely,
R. Chambers.

Rev. R. Chambers.
New York, Aug. 4, 1890
Rec'd Aug. 8

P.O. Box 425

Woodstock, Ont.
Aug. 29. 1890.

My dear Dr. Smith:-

My brother wrote you yesterday that we are ready to to go at once to Erzroom if thought best. We would leave our families with their friends & go to ~~should~~ be in possession in anticipation of the Russian occupation. There dosnt seem any prospect that Mrs Chambers would be able to follow me there so that my stay there would have to be temporary. We pray the Lord to overrule all for the advancement of his Kingdom.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely
R. Chambers.

Rev. R. Chambers
Woodstock. Aug. 29. 1890
Rec'd Sept. 2

Woodstock, Ont.
Sept. 20. 1890.

Dear Dr Smith:-

Mr. Daniels has written me that he will have work for me by the end of next week, so I expect to leave for N.Y. on Thursday next - 25th -
I am very glad that my brother is to visit Salisbury & to be at Minneapolis. We look forward with some anxiety, but with much faith & earnest prayer to the Annual Meeting.
I desire with your permission to locate my family at Auburndale this season. My plans for the future leave me meantime n the wing" & Auburndale seems to be the most uitable & convenient place, besides its plea=ant features. I should like to have my family re about Oct. 1. May I also ~~at~~ sk that our allowance be $100 per month instead of $85 for the remainder f my "waiting" time, commencing with ct. 1st? Will you be kind enough o place the matter before the Committee. My address will be C/o Mr. Daniels -
With very best wishes
Yours sincerely, R. Chambers.

Rev. R. Chambers.

Woodstock, Sep. 20. 1890.

Rec'd Sep. 23.

15

121 Bible House, New York, Nov. 26. 1890.

My dear Dr. Smith:-

I appreciate the need of Erzroom. Private letters I have seen emphasize the considerations presented in those you have sent me to read. I have been strongly moved by what has come to me during the past few months. I wish I could say without qualification or hesitation, "Here am I!" Until I see & talk with Mrs Chambers I cannot reply definitely to yours of the 22nd. There are certain matters which I could more freely mention to you in a personal conference than write about, in regard to Mrs Chambers' trouble, which make me feel that I ought not to leave my family behind for an indefinite time such as "a year or so". I have talked with Mr. Daniels who sympathises with my hesitation in that matter, while also feeling the importance of some arrangement by which the difficulties may be overcome & the field occupied.

The most feasible proposition seems to me to be that I go, as soon as I can get ready, to

Erzroom on the understanding that my family follow me in the early summer. If at that time Mrs Chambers can prudently come on to Erzroom, well; if not, she could occupy a portion of the Trebizond missionary house, with the Parmelees, as a temporary arrangement. She would thus be within reach of me, the more so as much of my time would likely be spent at Erzingan which is three days journey nearer Trebizond than Erzroom is.

Please let me have your thought as to whether this might be considered a feasible proposition. In case you think well of it, I should like to go at once to Ingersoll to consult Mrs Chambers & we would finally decide together as to what seemed the best thing to do.

With very best wishes

I am

Yours sincerely

R. Chambers.

97 East 116 St., Nov. 28. 1890.

My dear Dr. Smith:-

My apprehension of the situation has been changed since my letter of the 26th inst. by what I learn of the appropriations which the Pru'd. Com. has been able to make for 1891. The Com. has done well to put faith in the churches & appropriate $684,000. It is sad however to think that the necessity of supporting the increased number of missionaries renders it imperative that the estimates for Nat. Agency be cut down in a serious way. I know what that means on the field. I dont want to intimate in any way that the Com. may have failed to look the whole situation over. I know they have looked carefully upon all sides of it. My conviction remains however that the Nat. Agency should be supported at all hazards & that the cutting down should fall more upon the miss'y force. I feel deeply Erzroom's need, but I believe that with the present miss'y force - if only a competent lady teacher can be sent - the Erzroom field can better bear my absence than any crippling of her Nat. Agency. Knowing also the sentiments of the Missionaries of all the Turkish Missions, & you met those sentiments at Constantinople, I feel that I would forfeit my chance of a hearty welcome back by having as my traveling companion the news of "decreased appropriations for Nat. Agency on account of the large accession to our missionary force". Still I should not recall a single competent missionary. But the strain might be partly relieved by the withdrawal of some of us now at home & partly crippled by circumstances. I, thus persuaded, have decided that I ought to resign & I enclose my resignation. This does not mean any withdrawal on my part of sympathy or confidence or heartiest approval of the Board's work. I will work just as hard as I can & as I may have opportunity for the Board. I have so often expressed my gratitude & appreciation that it is not necessary to reiterate it here.

I have no work, or prospect of a charge, in view. I will however bend my energies in the direction of finding a suitable field & I shall be grateful to you for any assistance you may find it convenient to give me.

I ask the Com. to allow my resignation to go into effect on Jan. 31. 1890. I should like the privilege of giving much of the intervening two months to the ~~work~~ duty of finding a suitable field of pastoral labor, returning to the treasurer of the Board however such sums (less traveling expenses) as I may receive for supplying pulpits.

I have greatly enjoyed my association with Mr. Daniels.

With very best wishes,

I am

Yours Sincerely, R. Chambers.

97 East 116 St.,
New York, N.Y. Nov. 28. 1890.

To the Prud. Com. of the A.B.C.F.M.,

Dear brethren:-

For reasons explained at length in my letter of this date to Dr. Smith, I beg to present my resignation of the position I now hold as a missionary of the American Board, and ask that it take effect on the 31st Jan. 1891.

Cordially appreciating all the kindness I have received at your hands, and deeply grateful for the opportunity I have enjoyed of engaging in missionary work abroad, and of presenting the cause to so many churches & friends at home, and pledging my prayers & hearty support to the Board's work wherever I may be

I am

Yours sincerely
R. Chambers.

121 Bible House,
Dec. 1. 1890.

My dear Dr Smith:-

I have yours of Nov. 29. It meets just what I had in view when I wrote on the 26th. My letter of the 28th, enclosing my resignation, of course changes the aspect of affairs & I suppose you will expect me to take no further step, in the way of going to Ingersoll to consult Mrs Chambers, until I hear from you again. The more I consider the matter the more I feel that, providentially crippled as I am, it will be better to spare me from the work in Turkey ~~[illegible]~~ & to allow whatever margin that will afford for strengthening the Nat. Agency. The case of course would be vastly different were Mrs Chambers & I able to ~~[illegible]~~ go, without qualification or hesitancy, simply to the place most needing us. Since we cannot, and since the problem of our location may be as far from solution as ever a year from now, & since the Turkish Missions feel so keenly & pressingly the need of a more efficient Native Agency, it seems true that my present thought if carried out will clear the ground considerably. I do plead for an efficient woman to help & follow

Miss Powers. I think really that such a one must be found before we can hope for much advance in some departments of the work in Erzroom. Miss Powers is good & true & deserving of hearty sympathy & encouragement, but she is overburdened.

Bod. Hagop it seems (so Mr. Richardson writes) is leaving Erzroom. A missionary of course cannot take the place of a native pastor. A first class pastor is a necessity in Erzroom. A large salary will have to be paid. These things start from my pen, though it is not necessary I remind you of them.

May God give the churches a still larger spirit of benevolence that the Committee may have wherewith to carry on the work that presses.

With very best wishes

Yours sincerely

R. Chambers.

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

MISSIONARY LITERATURE:
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SUPPLIED ON REQUEST.

REV. C. H. DANIELS, DISTRICT SECRETARY,
NO. ~~39~~ 121 BIBLE HOUSE,
NEW YORK.

Dec. 6. 1890.

My dear Dr. Smith:-

Had I had in hand, before forwarding my resignation, letters lately received from Mrs Chambers, I should have added to the reasons there given for my action another reason which is perhaps the more forcible of the two considerations. I am convinced from details of her state of health that we should be running a great risk in making arrangements which would look to her return to Turkey even in a *year or so*. I am equally convinced that my absence from my family for such a time would be to say the least exceedingly undesirable. ~~Mrs~~ Chambers local trouble may, on slight provocation, develop so as to cause serious inconvenience or require an operation. Should she return to the field with that fear haunting her & with the prospect of a possible speedy withdrawal, our usefulness there would suffer serious curtailment. On the other hand our waiting & care may be rewarded by her restoration to health. Thus crippled

MISSIONARY LITERATURE:
LEAFLETS, MAPS, CONCERT EXERCISES, COLLECTION ENVELOPES, REPORTS, &c., CONSTANTLY ON HAND. SUPPLIED ON REQUEST.

& incapacitated for the field I think it my duty to the Board to leave my salary available for other departments of the work. If in the course of one or two or three years Mrs Chambers should be so far improved as to justify the step & there should be a call for our services, I think that on our part there would be a hearty response to the call. I acknowledge the force of yours of Dec. 1, in reference to the relation of the Churches here to missionary salaries & native agency respectively. Still I feel that the committee did wisely to postpone the appointment of candidates last Tuesday. I hope the Churches will be deeply impressed with the fact that not only must the appointment of new missionaries be postponed but that old missionaries seriously consider the duty of withdrawal in order that the native agency may not be further crippled.

Mr. Daniels asks me whether I should not be willing to continue my present work in this district. My hesitation to do so arises from the fact that there is perhaps a sufficient force of missionaries now in the country available for this work & of whose return to their fields in due time there is not the doubt which exists in my case. I hope I shall find the place where I am most needed & which in my present circumstances I shall be able to fill.

With very best wishes
I am
Yours Sincerely
R. Chambers.

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

MISSIONARY LITERATURE:
LEAFLETS, MAPS, CONCERT EXERCISES, COLLECTION ENVELOPES, REPORTS, &c., CONSTANTLY ON HAND.
SUPPLIED ON REQUEST.

REV. C. H. DANIELS, DISTRICT SECRETARY,
NO. 39 BIBLE HOUSE,
NEW YORK.

Dec. 8. 1890

My dear Dr Smith:-

I have just received yours of Saturday. I start at once for Ingersoll. I go with the expectation of returning to Erzroom unless on consultation with Mrs Chambers & the physician it seems my clear duty not to do so.

As I wrote on Saturday I have a pretty strong premonition of how the matter will turn & yet of course the medical examination may pleasurably disappoint our fears.

With very best wishes

Yours Sincerely

R. Chambers.

P.S. I will write you from Ingersoll.

Ingersoll, Ont., Dec. 11. 1890.

My dear Dr Smith:-

A collision at Rochester delayed me some hours, so that I reached here late Tuesday night. Yesterday I took Mrs Chambers to Woodstock to Dr Archibald McLay. He is a leading physician of that town & is the one to whom we applied two years ago, so that he has been acquainted with the case from that time. He says the tumor is growing very slowly & his opinion is that sooner or later it will give serious trouble, though it may not do so for some years. Meantime Mrs Chambers must be very careful of her general health & must be within easy reach of skillful medical help. He pronounces decidedly against Erzroom for her. She must be careful even of long journeys in the cars. He strongly advises against my going ahead to leave her to follow after me later. He sees no objection to residence in a sea coast town but says that if we go at all we should go together. The responsibilities & care of the journey — children &c — should not be upon her. This examination you see introduces one new element of uncertainty into the case. Dr McLay says that passing the "change of life" will not materially benefit matters so far as the tumor is concerned; that t tumor is there & its growth until it becomes a seriou inconvenience & even threat to life is only a matter of time. In this I devoutly hope he is mistaken. If he i right the lapse of time will not bring relief. Perhap that is what the New York surgeon meant when he said, "Avoid experiments & treatment except for your genera health & dont think of an operation until life becomes burden to you".

I wrote to the Toronto physician who had Mrs Cham under his care for several months & who tried treat by electricity, which treatment Dr Polk of N.Y. also commended, asking for a statement of his views. I ho soon to hear from him.

It seems clear to me that in the circumstances I cannot go to Erzroom with any hope of locating again, nor can I go ahead with the hope of Mrs Cham following me next year. This is no small sorro to us. Our future we trust to the Heavenly Father.

Rec'd Dec. 15

[illegible] Dec. 17. 1890.

I am now under the necessity of asking the prudentia Committee to reconsider their resolution in dispos of my resignation.

Mr. Daniels has appointments for me for Sund so that I leave Ingersoll for N.Y. tomorrow abou noon.

Genuinely thankful for your sympat & kindness & with very best wishes in which M Chambers most heartily joins

I am
Yours sincerely,
R. Chambers

97 East 116 St.
New York, Dec. 13. 1890.

My dear Dr Smith:-

I learn that Dr Nesbitt of Toronto, under whose care Mrs Chambers was for several weeks for treatment by electricity & to whom I wrote for his opinion, sailed today from N.Y. for Berlin where he has gone to study Dr Koch's system.

In addition to what I said the other day let me add, more by way of thinking aloud than of making any definite proposition, that it seems ~~that~~ I am limited to one of four possible solutions of my case.

1. To take my family at once to Trebizond, occupy a part of the mission house there as a home, & myself tour in the Erzroom field, especially in the Erzingan district & give the Erzroom brethren what help I might be able to give. If the Committee considered it urgently necessary ~~[illegible]~~ & a practicable arrangement we should be willing to do it. Many objections to the plan will readily occur to you which I need not recount. Two chief objections seem to me to be, (a) It could not well be made a permanent arrangement & there might be found many obstacles & anxieties in connection with finding me a permanent location. (b). Dr McLay's opinion, that sooner or later we may expect serious trouble with the tumor, suggests that the prudential Committee would be assuming quite a risk in sending us out at all.

2. To give up the thought of any assistance I might

render just now in Erzroom & wait on unt
an opening in Trebizond or elsewhere on the se
coast invites my labors. The last objecti
to the previous plan bears of course equally agai
this one. Besides that ~~way~~ there is at present n
such opening & our waiting might prove long & w
I am very anxious as soon as possible to rea
an end.

3. Remain in the work as at present. I have
enjoyed the work & have felt that my time has b
profitably spent, but there are plenty of missio
on furlough now to do this work. It is impo
for me to free myself from the feeling that I a
an anomalous position & that I am a perple
to the Committee. However grievous it would
the part of the committee I hope they will not
a moment entertain the thought of continuing
present arrangement out of any supposed obligat
to furnish employment to a missionary.

4. To urge my resignation & seek a charge. Real
I think the choice lies between 1 & 4. The fi
asks the Committee to take a serious risk & remov
~~her~~ Mrs Chambers from her friends who, in case of a long, disabling
illness, would be of invaluable aid.

The fourth plan seems to me on the whole the w
one to adopt. With some kindly aid & recom
mendation I think I need not be long in find
a charge. Thus I have been thinking alou
& send on these thoughts for your private pe
With best wishes, yrs sincerely R. Cha

Rec'd Dec. 15

Rev. R. Chambers 5

23

Rec'd Jan. 9.

East Bloomfield, N.Y.
Jan. 7. 1891.

Dear Dr Smith:-

I received your letters of Dec 29 & Jan 1. I was quite delighted to hear of the move made by the Y.P.S.C.E. of East Hartford, & of the kindness of the Committee in allowing that sum to go toward restoring the Erzroom estimates. I will write the brethren there to have them designate some special object which may serve to deepen the interest of the E. Hartford young people. Mrs Chambers & I had resolved to accept the Committee's decision as to our returning to Turkey as indicative of the providential will regarding us. We were resolved to go had the Committee so decided.

Rich'd Chambers

Rec'd Jan 9

East Bloomfield NY
Jan 7. 1871.

Dear Dr Beach:

I received your letters of Dec 29 & Jan 1. I am much obliged [illegible] news of the success made by the efforts [illegible] East Hartford, by the Ministers of the Committee in allowing that since [illegible] go toward rendering the Engineers [illegible] could unite the Northern [illegible] to have them adopted as one special object which may serve to increase the interest felt [illegible] Hartford Mrs Chambers & young people.

I had received a copy of the Committee reasons as to their refusing to [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible] will be [illegible] had the [illegible]

There is some pang in thought of leaving the work on the foreign field, but the decision of the Committee commends itself to my judgment.

I shall be happy meantime to work with Mr. Daniels. He writes me that you are kind enough to recommend $25 per month additional allowance. We shall be thankful for that. It will enable my family to live in more comfort than last year.

I left N.Y. on Saturday morning last & have meetings everyday this week, except today. The meetings are well attended & interest is expressed.

I hope to run over to Ingersoll for a days visit next week.

With very best wishes,

I am

Yours Sincerely,

R. Chambers.

24

Suspension Bridge, N. Y., Jan 10 1891

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,

1 Somerset St., Boston.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

I have yours of the 7th inst. & thank you most heartily for it, & also the prudential committee for their thoughtful action. I have had 8 good meetings this week. I am to give two addresses here tomorrow. On Monday I expect to see Mrs Chambers & my boys. I hope our winter's campaign will not be fruitless.

I see by todays paper that Clifford Lloyd died at Erzroom. His family was a great comfort to the missionaries. I am astonished & pained to hear of his sudden death.

With best wishes,

I am

Yours sincerely,

R. Chambers.

Suspension Bridge, Jan. 10. 1897.

Rec'd Jan. 12.

Amherst, Mch. 18. 1891.

Dear Dr. Smith:-

I enclose you a letter just received from Miss Powers which gives rather a vivid inside view of some points in Mr. Parmelee's ase. Please regard the letter as onfidential & return to me. Miss owers speaks freely, & only for private perusal of those who nderstand her. The family Felicians introduced on page of the letter are the ones who om the olden times have given much trouble & acted in a ost unchristian manner. I ow them well & do not at all onder at Miss Powers' expressions garding them. Mr. Parmelee, I

know, has again & again tried
conciliate them by personal
tentions, but in vain.

I do not know that I have
ever met a person whose
instincts are more reliable
are those of Miss Powers. I
her moral judgment of the
ation is worthy of attention.

I am quite enjoying my
days with Mr. Cole. On Sun
I am to be with Mr. Luckey
New Haven.

I am very sorry that Mr
Richardson & Mr. Macallum
took the action they did in th
matter of Miss Powers retu
to Engroom. I think they
hasty. If they had rath
managed so that she could
graduate her class this
or next Spring, returning

ed the winter if possible from a rest
l Cons^{t}ple for that purpose, &
hen had her resign the school to
ladies sent out by the Committee
to take charge of it, it would
have been wiser. However
I th may be better now for her
ot to return to Erzroom, unless
very decided renewal of physical
y strength should occur to justify
it. I wrote her saying I hoped
y she would not think of reassum-
g the difficult burden at
Erzroom.

With very best wishes
Yours sincerely,
R. Chambers.

P.S. I hope it may be arranged
ed no lady be sent alone to Erzroom.
s two well tried friends should be found
g the position.

Rev. R. Chambers. S

Amherst, Mar. 18, '91.

Rec'd Mar. 19.

Ingersoll, Ont.,

Apr 28. 1891.

Dear Dr Smith:--

On reaching Ingersoll last night I received yours of 24th. To be on the safe side I have executed a general power of attorney in favor of Mr. Richardson, which I forward by today's mail in registered package.

I write my brother also enclosing your note.

I have just returned from a tour in Western New York. I spent the Sundays in Buffalo. Lockport. Oswego. & Mannsville & had several week day meetings. The tour was quite encouraging.

With very best wishes in which rs Chambers joins me

I am

Yours Sincerely,

R. Chambers.

Rec'd May 1

Sidney, N.Y. May 5. 1891.

My dear Dr. Smith:-

I have yours of April 30. I posted the power of Attorney directly to Mr. Richardson.

I am here attending Assn. meeting & go on from here to New York to fill appointments in the vicinity.

I enclose a translation of a letter received the other day from Zohrap Sarkisian - one of our good workers in Russia. The letter speaks for itself. The school is greatly needed, not alone for the villages within immediate reach but also to provide primary teachers for many villages in the region that are desirous of them.

The Erzroom School cannot well supply the demand & even there were no government objections to Russian pupils going out of the country for an education still the needs of the case make a good school at Samopher most desirable. Would there be any objections to my soliciting (outside the Boards ordinary sources of revenue) funds to supply at least the teachers' salaries required by Zohrap's project? The building he requires might come in good time.

Would you please return me Zohrap's letter for further use.

Yours Sincerely,
R. Chambers.

Sidney N. Y. May 5.

Rec'd May 9. '91.

P.O. Box 425, Woodstock, Ont.,
July 23 - 1891.

My dear Dr. Smith:-

I am here for a few weeks & hope during my stay in Canada to visit some of the Cong'l Churches in the interests of the Board.

I feel sorry & somewhat indignant at the terms the Van meeting's resolution in regard to Miss Powers. Your suggestion that she return to Erzroom to close h her affairs &, if able to do so, spend the Winter there eems to me the right thing. The ladies there will of course e so situated that they can do nothing for the School is Winter & I certainly don't think the Girls School Mr. Richardson's hands would be any more efficient an in Miss Powers'. How good it would have been uld the two ladies needed have gone out there to eceive the School from Miss Powers care. I am ure she would voluntarily & with pleasure retire om it in such case. Miss Powers state of health ccentrates ~~the~~ prominent points in her dispo-

sition. She makes warm friends, & those wh
dont understand her often sadly misjudge her
She has a most devoted spirit, & has had a usef
career. I imagine that the testimony of her own
pupils, though she was ~~often~~ severe when needed, w
be quite enthusiastic in her favor. Usually her
judgment is excellent, though there is often a lack
temperateness in urging it. I am not writing
any thought that she is in danger of failing to receiv
yourself & the prudential committee the sympat
consideration which few missionaries deserv
highly than than she, but only to give this lit
deserved testimony on her behalf. I hope
her strength will yet permit her to occupy so
field better suited to her temperament & stat
health than is Erzroom.

With very best wishes

I am

Yours Sincerely,

R. Chambers.

Filed Aug 25.

[illegible]

29

P.O. Box 425, Woodstock, Ont.
Aug. 14, 1891.

My dear Dr. Smith:-

I have yours of 8th inst. to my brother.

If at all avoidable I think it undesirable for my brother to go on to Erzroom leaving his family behind & I think the arrangement for them to remain in this country till next summer very wise, in fact necessary. The situation at Erzroom is certainly unsatisfactory, & my brother's presence there would greatly help matters but the exigency does not seem so pressing as to call for any sudden change of plan. Such an event as the arrest of Mr. Richardson by ignorant & over-zealous provincial officials might occur at any time & has in it so far as I am informed no extraordinary element. It is unfortunate that Mr. Richardson managed to get arrested. The general situation in Erzroom, of which the arrest is only a minor incident, draws upon our sympathies & thought. I wish we could be assured of two ladies to go out with my brother & family next Summer. Then it might be worth considering

whether Mr. Richardson could be transferred to a field where narrower bounds or a larger force of workers together with a less surcharged atmosphere would lay fewer & less serious responsibilities upon each individual.

I hope the American Govt can be persuaded to act promptly & energetically in the matter of the seizure & detention of Mr. Richardson's letters & papers. His arrest was of course an outrage & if allowed to pass lightly may embolden the perpetrators to further attempts.

While I do not consider the situation serious enough to call for my brother's immediate departure, yet I do wish that some judicious & experienced missionary, ~~[illegible]~~ at your special request, could go to Erzroom to advise & aid the missionaries there — especially Mr. Richardson — in matters now causing them anxiety. Would it not be quite worth while for Mr. H. O. Dwight to spend a month on that mission?

With very best wishes

I am

Yours sincerely

R. Chambers.

Gen. J. [illegible]

Woodstock Aug. 14, '91.

Filed Aug. 25.

P.O. Box 425 Woodstock, Ont.
Sep 5. 1891.

My dear Dr Smith:--

May I trouble you to have the blanks filled out on the sheet I enclose. I wish to use some of the items in the Ohio Associations to which I go in the beginning of Oct. You notice that I ask for the Appropriations for 1891 – Missy salaries & Nat. Agency separately; also for the estimates of the Missions for Nat. Agency.

I thank you for yours of Aug 26. How would it do for Miss Powers to spend the winter at Trebizond in case she does not go to Erzroom. I think she could spend the time profitably there & that the Parmelees would be glad to have her. Perhaps by next spring some other field may open to her in case her health continues to improve.

With very best wishes
Yours sincerely, R. Chambers.

Rev. R. Chambers

Woodstock, Sep. 5, 1891.

Rec'd Sep. 8.

Rev. R. Chambers

Box 425, Woodstock, Ont.,
Sep. 22, 1891.

My dear Dr Smith:--

I have yours of 16th inst. communicatg the prudential Committee's action on my case. I had already received a letter from the Com. ad-interim. Mrs Chambers & I have felt ourselves pledged to the miss'y work in Turkey unless providential indications seemed clearly otherwise. We can see no sufficient justification of hesitancy to take up the work in Bardezag. We therefore gladly accept the prudential Committee's designation of us to the W. T. M.

I leave on Monday next (28th) for three weeks among Ohio Conferences & Churches. The Conf. appointments are of some weeks standing. I hope after that to make speedy preparation for our departure if it is the Com.'s wish that we do so.

Mrs Chambers has a sister (somewhat

advanced in years) whom she will probabl never have the opportunity of seeing again, & whom she is very desirous of saying "good bye" to. The sister is matron in Manitoba Coll Winnipeg. I think Mrs C. will go there for a week or so while I am in Ohio.

As to outfit:– Our things (which were neither many nor of great value) in Erzroom have been sold (of course at a sacrifice) or other-wise dispersed. The heavier articles could not, in any case, have been advantageously trans-ported to Bardezag from Erzroom. Com. will be kind enough to designate the allowance for outfit & freight we will set our orders for goods in shape as soon as possible.

We shall carry with us on our return our work feelings of high appreciation & gratit both to the Churches, the prudential Committee, & the Secretaries.

With very best wishes,
Yours sincerely,
R. Chambers.

P.S. Mrs C.'s local trouble (the tumor) does not seem change. She has however apparently passed a crisis & her general health constantly improves.

Rev. R. Chambers
Woodstock, Sept. 22, 1891.
Rec'd Sep. 23.

Woodstock, Sept 27. 1891.

Dear Dr Smith:-

My Ohio appointments close on the 20th Oct. (unless I beg off from some of them) so that it would be impossible for us to be ready to go so early as would be desirable for Miss Griswold. We should be glad indeed to have her with us if she can wait a few weeks longer. I expect to return *here* from Ohio & after a week, which I'll need here, to go on to N.Y. & prepare for sailing. I think we can be ready to sail by about the 15th Nov.— perhaps a few days earlier.

I thank you for the figures you enclosed. I enclose a note of acknowledgment to Mr. Chapin.

Yours Sincerely,
R. Chambers.

P.S. Addresses in Ohio:- Oct. 7. c/o Rev. E. F. Baird, Mallet Creek, Ohio; Oct. 13. c/o Rev. S. R. Dole, Chester, Ohio; ct 14. c/o Capt C. P. Lyman, Bristolville, Ohio; Oct 15, c/o

Rev. J. H. Young, Office of Pittsburg dispatch, Pittsburg, Pa.

I'll send other addresses later.

Woodstock. Sept. 27, 1891.
Rec'd Sept. 30

J. L. B.
Rec'd 3-28-96
Ans'd 4-1

R. Chambers.

96 [illegible] 5 [illegible] 54

33

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Bardezag, Mch. 6. 1896

Dear Dr Barton:-

The writer of the above, Bod. Mardyros Ignadiosian, is one of our faithful & able pastors. He feels that emigration from this country is the only hope for many of his countrymen & he wishes to do what he can to help those who wish to emigrate.

I send on the letter knowing that any

assistance within your power
you are ready to render to thes
unfortunates.

With best wishes
I am
Yours Sincerely
R. Chambers

Rev. Wm. A. Chambers
34 — 288

Erzroom Jan. 17. 1890.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston

My dear Dr. Smith,

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men." Rejoice with us for the Saviour "brings back His own". Truly it is often darkest before dawn. The Sun of Righteousness has risen & is scattering rays of blessings in Erzroom. We are just now in the midst of a deep revival. By former letters you will have learned the sad state of the church here to rectify which & decide the question of the Pastor's resignation has taken a great deal of time & energy for the past two or three months with apparently no result & hope of success had all but faded. We had looked forward~~td~~ to the week of prayer in the hope that those meetings might be the means of arousing dead feelings, but a meeting which filled the chapel on Monday night gave place to ~~the~~ a meeting that did not quite half fill the chapel on Friday night. The leader of the meeting ~~of the~~ at sunrise on Saturday morning in speaking of the subject "thanksgiving" for the day asked, "What have we, apart from the ordinary blessings of every day for which to render thanks. While we have much to sadden our hearts. We should sing a dirge instead of a psalm of praise." A "passage at arms" between two of the brethren, in which one declared that "shame" was the great obstacle to progress, the other springing to his feet & hotly declared that there was no shame about it it was simply the power of sin which ruled over all, only added to the sadness & heaviness of heart. As the pastor afterward remarked we did not realize it was merely a "severe birth-pang". That day a movement was evident amongst a few young men. In the evening about 8 (eight) ~~persons~~ (young men) rose confessing their sins, asking prayer & pledging themselves to the Saviour. That evening the meeting continued four hours & everybody declared it "short". Sunday was a great field day, during which other young men to the number of about 20, went in a body to the ~~chapel~~ pastor's house & pledged themselves to the Saviour which vow most of them renewed, with tears & confession & reconciliation with offended companions, at the evening service in the chapel in a full meeting in the evening. That meeting was also about four hours long, and ~~was~~ seemed only about half as long as the four hour meeting of the previous evening. Monday evening there were more confessions by young men. One instance of that evening was witnessed. The pastor called on one man for remarks. This man had been an irregular attendant at chapel, but one whose religious ~~or rather~~ spiritual feelings seemed absolutely dead, & he had made it ~~the~~ his principle to be neither Protestant or Gregorian, although he would not admit himself an infidel. When asked for a few words he answered that he was dumb & had nothing to say. This was construed by some into a confession that his feelings were dead, & by others as a bodily infirmity. But the startling news ~~that~~ next day was that his feelings were so deep that he could not speak & that evening he had gone to his brother, a bitter Gregorian, with whom he had been at variance for three years & who had really done him great injury, & sought reconciliation & with tears & mutual confessions found it. On Tuesday the women had a large meeting in the pastor's house and there the feeling was very deep & [with tears and confession of offences & sins, [reconciliations, requests for prayer & vows to serve the Lord were numerous] So the influence spread amongst the older members of the church, confessions & reconciliations began until the difficulty that has been threatening the church's life came to the front. On Wednesdnesday morning the brother who was unwittingly the cause of the trouble devoted the day to fasting & prayer & work for the removal of that difficulty. He asked me to assist him & with two or three other brethren about four hours were spent in trying to bring the affair to a point where reconciliation could be accomplished. Some of us insisted that everything should be talked over by the principals in the difficulty so that they might come to a clear & perfect understanding with each other. Others declared a reconciliation on that basis impossible insisting that without any discussion of what had passed they should & simply clasp hands & forgive & forget in silence. Finally the former plan was decided on as the only way a perfect reconciliation could take place. Some declared it an absolute impossibility & all of us were in more or less doubt. However everything was done to prepare the way. With fear & trembling on the part of those working the two principals were bro't. together & to the delight & surprise of all the two men who two days ~~a week~~ previously were at such absolute variance with each other first begged each others pardon & kissed which is a sign of perfect reconciliation, then they sat down for two & half hours talked the whole affair over in detail & coming to a perfect understanding clasped hands, kissed each other again & walked home from the market hand in hand." In the evening meeting a clean confession & entreaty for prayer on the part of those concerned made a great impression on the audience meeting. This brings the church into harmony again, & what we have been working with all our energy for for three months has been bro't about with comparative ease in three days. If this were the only point gained it would be a blessing fully repaying the efforts of the past." But this is not the only blessing. ~~About~~ Between 35 & 40 have made public confession of sins & shortcomings & asked for prayers. Of these 23 are were young men who had never made public profession of the Saviour before. Not merely did they ask for prayer, but with confession of sins, some of which were very touching, they there & then pledged themselves to the Saviour. ~~But not only this~~ All this is apart from the movement amongst the women; as they cannot make their confessions in public in the chapel they had a stirring meeting in the pastor's house as related above. One very encouraging thing in the movement is the seemingly vivid sense of the "exceeding sinfulness of sin" amongst the young men who have made profession. I had long ago concluded that it was vain to expect orientals to make public confession of sin & ask prayers in in public meeting. But I have seen

& heard what I had previously deemed impossible. A week has passed since the movement took definite shape & it seems to have lost nothing of its force. Whereunto it may grow we know not. But our hearts yearning prayer is that we who are looked upon as leaders in the community may be willing instruments in ~~the~~ hands of the Spirit to do His will perfectly in the work of gaining souls for the Saviour.

"Brethren earnestly pray for us all in Erzroom" that we may yield completely to the influence of the Spirit & in no way whatever quench that influence but that it may gather strength & be a permanent power in the Erzroom church.

With kindest regards
Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Jan. 21, 1890
Filed Feb. 10

P.S. We heard a few days ago of the death of one of our helpers, Baron Murad Mersakian, of Chevermeh. We have no particulars, only it is reported that there is almost an epidemic of some kind & quite a number of people have died. We we have the "dengue" fever in this city & many are reported sick with it.

W.N.C.

Erzroom Jan. 25. 1890

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston,

My dear Dr. Smith.

Last week I wrote you of a revival that had begun amongst the people of this community. It seemed deep & promised great influence. In fact a very great deal was accomplished during the week in the way of rousing the people & restoring harmony in the church & community. But this week there is another story to tell, whether we should say sad or not I know not, at least it seems a very strange providence indeed. Erzroom church in such need of an outpouring of the Spirit, enjoying that blessed influences, holding large & enthusiastic meetings each evening when suddenly half the city is taken sick with the dengue fever & the few meetings held attended by but a mere handful as compared with the former audiences. The common remark is "half the people are sick & the other half are nurses". There is scarcely a house where there is not at least one sick & often there are three four & five sick at once. There is no mortality, but this dengue prostrates not only its victims, but almost all enterprise. Early last week the pastor took the decease, then the teacher. Fortunately I remained free till after Sunday & now as I am confined to the house the pastor is convalescent & will be able to preach a short sermon tomorrow. It seems sad that such interesting meetings should have been closed at what seemed a critical point & not only so but pastoral work & personal conversations made impossible by sickness. However we trust that already gained is not all to be gained & when the people are able to meet together again the former enthusiasm will reappear.

It is a very strange thing that at this altitude in this severe cold 10° below zero that the germs of this fever should retain so much vitality. Possibly some will say it is impossible. However it must be remembered this is Erzroom & the best authorities declare this the "dengue". The authorities have established quarantine on the Persian boundary near Mt. Ararat. It is against cholera supposed to be in Persia which might be carried by the large caravans passing through here from Persia.

As to our circle, Mrs Richardson has passed through the dengue Miss Powers & myself convalescing, & Mrs Chambers has premonitory symptoms.

With kindest regards. Yours very truly W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Jan. 25, 1890

Rec'd Feb. 18

Erzroom March 7. 1890

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston.

My dear Dr. Smith,

A few days ago I returned from a tour to the districts of Khanoos & Passen. For a certain reason I write you a little in detail. My heart aches at what I saw. I found the people - of all Christian communities - in a sad state. Bad crops, adverse circumstances &c have thrown them into a condition such as I have never before seen during my ten years residence here even in the famine. In addition to this the people suffer greatly by the forcible collection of the taxes - in the case of some tithe-farmers outrageous oppression. I wish to relate a few instances.

1. About the last week of Jan. the zaptiehs, Lieu. Ahmed, & private Ismail came to the village of Chevermeh in the Khanoos district to collect taxes. Amongst others they called for back taxes from Hadji Marderos a poor man who gains most of his living by begging. Not being able to pay he was seized his hands tied behind his back taken to the roof of the room where the zaptiehs

were staying as guests. The end of the long rope with which his hands were tied was passed through the skylight into the room. This end was seized by the gaptieh inside & pulled till the poor man was forced to lie flat on his back on the snow over the hole serving as a skylight. The day was bitterly cold. After a few moments when the rope was slacked the man would rise to his feet to avoid the severe chill from the snow. Then the rope would be pulled by the gaptiehs forcing the man to his back again. This torture was continued between one & two hours. The man was not well at the time & this treatment induced a period of illness. He is an old gray haired man. The tax not being forthcoming the tax gatherers returning to the village (this time soldiers) seized the son & imprisoned him in a stable for two days, during which time he was beaten so severely (he says three times each day) that when I saw him about two weeks later he was quite sick. Would have been sick a-bed had he had a bed to lie in.

2. On Feb. 17. the same torture was visited on a poor man in the Village of Kizloo. In this village men were imprisoned in a straw pen from morning till night. in very severe weather. They suffered severely as they had insufficient clothing and no protection from the cold.

3. In the Spring of 1889 in the village of Heramik

Boghos Hovhanessian, his son, & partener together rented two fields comprising altogether about 2 1/2 acres of ground. They paid rent for one field 1/2 Soman (about 8 bushels) of wheat & for the other 38 piasters. They were to share equally the expense & profit. They planted a garden but the crop failed & they scarcely realized from the garden as much as would cover the rent - i.e. possibly a little over 100 piasters. If sown in wheat & giving the best possible yield the tithe would not be more than 40 piasters. But this year making the most liberal estimate possible the tithe should not be more than 15 piasters. As a matter of fact the tithe is assessed at 220 piasters - at least twice the full value of the crop realized. The man having nothing whatever with which to pay the tax had been in prison for about two weeks with prospect of indefinite imprisonment before him. Not only so, but the govt. recognized the right of the partner to pay 1/3 of the tithe, but demands all from Boghos.

4. In the village of Haramik three men David, Bedros & Khacho rented two fields to plant as garden giving ~~or~~ half the crop as rent. By actual ~~count~~ valuation the owners of the fields received each 300 piasters worth of vegetables showing the full yield to be about 1200 piasters, the tithe of which would be 120 piasters. As a matter of fact 630 piasters were demanded as tithe. The gardners appealed to Erzroom but gaining no redress the owners & two of the gardners

paid their shares of the 630 piasters leaving one share of Khacho the other gardener which the law allows. The Govt. called Khacho & demanded his share. He begged off on the score of poverty & being the servant of a Turk Saied Bey he was allowed to go. The other two gardeners were called & this man's share demanded from them. Objecting that in the first place it was not their debt, in the second they were not able to pay it even if it was their debt they were remanded to prison. On Feb 21st they had been 7 days in prison with no immediate prospect of redress.

4. On Jan. 29. '90. thirty men were sent to present to the Kaimakam a petition for redress of abuses. They were ordered off to prison and five of them escaping the twenty five of them were retained in prison four days by the simple order of the Kaimakam. The following is a translation of the petition.

"Honored Sir,

1 In 1889 the tithe-farmer Jefer Agha did not measure our grain on the threshing floors at the proper time, and when, because of the fall rains our food and seed were in danger of being ruined he took from us 250 Kilehs (bushels) of wheat, 150 Kilehs of barley, & 30 ~~Kil~~ Kilehs of flax seed & then measured the grain

2) "In the fall, just at the time of the fall sowing we were forced to transport 250 somars of grain for the government so that we were unable to sow a handful of fall wheat, while according to custom more than 200 somars of fall wheat is sown. Besides this, up to the present time, the tithe-farmer, Jefer Agha, has given no renumeration to any one for the work of transportation.

3 "According to law the tithe of the hay is taken in kind. But with the intention of taking money instead of the tithe in kind the tithe farmer has not yet collected it. Leaving the tithe in this way threatens to afford a means of oppression & injury to us.

4 "The tithe farmer, without consultation valued the gardens & fixed the tithe at a figure at least 4 or 5 times greater than justice would allow. And this not only for gardens taxable by law, but also for small gardens adjoining dwellings or surrounded by a hedge & for family use & which are exempt from tax by law. For these the same exhorbitant tax is demanded."

(The above as a petition was presented to the Kaimakam by the 20 representatives of the village & for which they were imprisoned. On Feb. 21. the following was added to be presented again or sent to the Governor of the

Province as the case may require)

5 "About 10 families of our village being unable to live because of the scarcity of money have removed to other places & many others in the village being unable to gain their daily bread much of the tax imposed by government remains unpaid. To collect these taxes the tax gatherers & regular soldiers visit the village once a week, or once in ten days in companies of from 4 to 8 persons. They beat the tax payers who are in arrears four or five times a day, each day they kill five or six chickens to eat, they feed daily ~~four~~ three or four kilehs of barley to their horses, & remaining in the village two or three days at a time they trouble & oppress us contrary to the will of a caretaking govt.

Sir,

(You have been almost an eye witness to these things to which we call your attention entreating that we may be permitted to enjoy your care & favor.

Signed on behalf of Chevermeh village
including both Gregorian & Protestant Communities."

Allow me to call your attention to a few thoughts on this petition:

The first paragraph calls attention to a forced bribe. The people cannot touch the grain till it is measured

& tithe collected. The tithe farmer simply refused to measure the grain until the bribe mentioned was paid. The people held out, but finding no redress as the grain in the threshing floors was beginning to grow, in fact in some places, more especially round the edges of the piles was quite green, the people thought they would loose less by yielding & paid the bribe. Then they were forced to transport a lot of grain. The delay in measuring the grain & the forced transport work led to the hardship mentioned in the second count. As they say in the petition the~~y~~ villagers sow about 200 Somars (= 3200 bushels of wheat) of fall wheat. This season they were unable to sow any whatever. In the spring as much spring wheat as the season will permit or they have strength for. With all this they have steadily become poorer. In the light of this fact, what may be the reasonable forecast of their condition during this year of 1890. Note, 1. With all they have been able to sow of both fall & spring wheat & barley the very strongest have lost ground. 2. They have no fall wheat sown at all this year. 3. Many of their animals have died or been sold for debt or tax. For this & other reasons they have not the strength to sow the usual amount of spring wheat. It naturally follows that unless something very unusual, as the very early opening of spring & a late fall giving them very much more time than usual for spring seeding & harvesting, ~~still~~ the wheat supply will be very inadequate. Not only do the villagers suffer, but the govt. sustains great loss inasmuch as the govt. income in tithes depends on the amount of grain reaped.

In the third count the villagers complain that the tithe farmer has not collected the tithe in hay. They allege that this is done in order that after the hay has been fed to the cattle he may he may demand what tithe he desires & force the payment of it in money. The people cannot be expected to leave the hay in place till spring till the tithe is taken, neither can they be expected to pay the tithe in money.

In the fourth paragraph a strange freak of the tithe farmer is set forth. Often the complaint is made against the villagers that they do not raise vegetables. Many efforts have been made to introduce the raising of potatoes & such like in the villages. This tithe farmer has boasted that he will put a stop to vegetable gardens. And it seems a strange thing that farmers should come to the city & purchase their potatoes & cabbages from the city gardens. This man, sustained by govt. has succeeded in this threat. In this village there were 8 or 10 gardens of such size as to be taxable. There these by the most liberal estimate might be so assessed as to make the tithe 200 piasters. Besides these there were small gardens by law exempt from tax. Supposing these taxable a very exagerated estimate might make the tithe of these all together about 200 piasters, making the entire tax on gardens in the village 500 piasters. As a matter of fact the tithe farmer is forcing a tithe of ~~about~~ nearly 3000 (three thousand) piasters.

In the last count a sad picture is presented. It is not of people unwilling to pay tax, but of those absolutely unable to sustain themselves in feeding their families & paying their taxes. Beating is of common occurrence. The other outrages are indicated in the first part of this report. The hardship of having to feed the zaptiehs (police) & soldiers who so often visit the villages is very heavy. They (the soldiers &c) are not satisfied with the ordinary fare of the village or even what they get in barracks, but force the best the host can produce & that without remuneration except in curses & abuse. The feeding of the tax-collector's horses is a heavy tax in itself. Many other abuses might be cited, but time does not permit. This petition shows the abuse practiced on the village not simply on a few individuals.

Enough for Khanoos, I would call your attention to the Alashgird district lying contiguous to the Russian boundary. The distress there was so pressing that the people began to entertain the thought of emmigrating. Some of them went over to Persia to see the country. The Gov. of Tabreez gave them very considerable encouragement, promising them land, assistance & for a certain time exemption from taxes &c &c. Then a number of villages united in a petition setting forth their grievances & asking for redress or permission to leave the country. I have not been able to see a copy of the petition, but from reliable authority I have the information that it presented the matter about as follows.

From the time of the Circassian Omar Beg (a Kaimakam who ruled well before the war) until the present there has not been a Kaimakam or Cadi who could protect the people & country. Flocks & herds must be housed in the village at night: the peasants dare not remain out after dark or over night in the fields for fear of robbers & murderers: ripened fields are pillaged; shocks of grass, barley & wheat are burned; mills opened & wheat & flour taken away by force; animals & more especially oxen stolen or sold for tax: We passed through the scourge of the war, & after that of famine, & because of the high price of commodities & great scarcity of money we have been in a state of famine ever since. Taxes have been increased and because of the present poverty are very oppressive. Tithes are taken for grass burned in the shock. Payment for the transportation of grain to Byazid & Van for the Govt. has never been made, or reckoned in place of tax (amount about 100 £.). Murders and robberies occur & no investigation is had. How has the money been expended which was collected as tax for construction of new roads, maintanance of school, or for the assistance of indigent farmers? After reciting these ~~grev~~ and other grevances they ask for redress or permission to go to Persia.

A few words in explanation of this petition. This Omar Bey was a strong ruler & demonstrated the fact that the country could be ruled & made prosperous.

The great injury to stock, more especially to sheep by housing them in close hot stables in the hot summer nights can be imagined, but not only so they are kept hungry from night till morning. The almost only article of exportation from these district is ~~are~~ sheep. Instead of being protected it is thus very greatly injured. The burning of grain & hay is increased by the fact that the farmers dare not remain in the fields after dark because of the unsafe state of the country.

The tax burden would not be heavy if the people were protected in their work, but in their defenceless condition & poverty it is very burdensome. The same abuses exist as reported in reference to Khanoos in the first part of this letter. The military exemption tax is very heavy as it is increased & taken from *every* registered male of the Christian population & the law *requires* that *all* should be registered so that the baby a month old & the decrepit old man of 90 or 100 years have to pay the same exemption tax as those who are the proper age for military service, & it very often occurs that tax is exacted for many dead persons.

As to the charge that no investigation is had in the case of murder (presumably of Christians) there is an example In the spring in the village of Chilgani two men Christians were murdered & robbery committed. Word was at once sent to the Kaimakam. Twelve or fourteen hours after being informed of the deed he went to investigate. About all he did was to order the burial of the murdered men. The murderers and robbers are now known & no notice is taken of the affair. In the fall in the village of Daubad a rich Turk was robbed. On receipt of the news the *Mutasarrif of Bayazid* and the Kaimakams of Karakaleesh & Toprak Kaleh started at once in persuit & obtained redress.

Before the war in addition to the tithe of produce a tax of 2 percent was imposed for the construction of roads, establishing schools, & assisting indigent farmers. That is to say if a farmer had oxen & no seed he was to be assisted to seed &c. Before the war this amounted to a considerable sum. After the war the law was inoperative & the tax was not collected for some years. During the last 6 years a sum supposed to amount to about 2,500 £. has been accumulated. Little has been done in road making, no schools established & no assistance rendered to the peasants. An account is demanded of this money more especially as it was raised for the benefit of the people & not for direct govt. expense. This money was to be loaned to the farmer.

Ordinarily the peasants sow about 1/3 of their land in fall wheat & the remaining 2/3 in the spring. This year a very small minority got any fall seeding done. Very few will be able to do their usual amount of spring sowing. The best off of the peasants are not able to retain their former position. Those who were formerly well off are now poor & very many have nothing now to lose.

The Govt. proposed to assist the people but on such terms that they could not accept being persuaded that the assistance would only make them in the end worse off than before. The only apparent outcome of this petition was the arrest of two men. One a leading man in one village & the other the Prot. preacher & teacher in another village. No ~~spef~~ specific charges are made. Ostensibly they are under arrest as being the instigators of the movement. The preacher was summarily arrested brot. to the city under careful escort. Both are detained from their work to their great injury. A special commission was sent to the district to investigate. The rumor that there were arms hidden in great quantities was utterly groundless. They found the people in a disturbed state because of the condition of affairs, & only demanding redress that they might live in safety & peace, or be allowed to leave. It is here rumored that a "monster" petition is being prepared.

This is the present condition of the people, whether it will be better or worse later is impossible to say. It is not a question of famine that might be relieved by outside help, it is a question of the life of the province for years to come.

I have tried several times to cut this letter short but there are so many items of importance that I can't leave them out. Just one item more on the Alashgird question.

The Nahia of "Sherien a Bashe" is composed of 17 villages of which one, Khasdoor, is Christian. The other 16 are Koordish viz: Abbás, [2] Asaph, [3] Evdoe Kome, [4] Mardo village, [5] Shah Nozar, [6] Boze Mezen, [7] Aikán, [8] Gopal, [9] Berabad, [10] Geli, [11] A Köme (sheep cote) [12] Mollah Husein, [13] Sheikh Khan, [14] Mollah Zadeh, [15] Rumgau, [16] Evde. At the least calculation these Koordish villages comprise 400 houses & probably many more. They have as good land & as large in proportion as Khasdoor which has about 100 houses. The tithe of the 16 Koordish villages sells for about 300 £.T. While the tithe of Khasdoor sells for 235 or 240 £.T.

There are five men in Erzroom prison sentenced to life exile by the local court. They have been about two years in prison & their crime if crime it can be called is supposed to be political & they are regarded as dangerous revolutionists evidenced by the fact that they had on their persons copies of national songs in writing, with a prohibited book or so.

these poor fellows are suffering terrible hardships for no sufficient reason - a most unjust proceeding.

But I must not extend this letter any more,

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, March 7. 1890.
Rec'd May 20. 1890.

Erzingan April 12. 1890

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr. Smith,

Your of March 5th reached me here. We are very glad of the action of the Prudential Com. in reference to Shushi & thank you very heartily for it. We hope to have a delegate from there at the Alliance An. Meet. in Ezroom in May 1st.

I have been absent from Ezroom a good deal lately & I presume Mr. Richardson has kept you informed of matters there. 18 new members were taken in to church & others are under examination.

Here I have some very disagreeable work on hand. A few of the people have separated & now demand a share of the property. We have tried every means possible to heal the rupture & have gained no success to that end. The affair will likely come before the courts for decision. I do not fear any loss of property, & we will have some expense, but I shrink keenly from the scandal of it. May the Lord guide us all that all things may work for his glory. I have just visited Kemakh, the church there is in a very harmonious condition.

I trust you will excuse this paper as I have no mission paper with me. I will report this affair in full when I return to Ezroom.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly W. N. Chambers.

[illegible] formalities are required to enable him to

for no different reason is

proceeding.

But I must not extend this letter

any more —

Geo. B. Smith

Erzingan, April 12, 1878

Rec'd May 6

Erzroom May 1890.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston,

My dear Dr. Smith

I think my last letter to you was from Erzingan. I am sorry to be so late in reporting the state of affairs in that city, but on my return here we had our annual meeting of the Alliance & then I went out to Passen.

The affair in Erzingan was very trying indeed. We made every effort possible to prevent the affair coming before the Turkish courts, even going so far as to offer to pay part of the expense of a person from the opposing party to go to Van & appeal to the meeting of the mission. But they conceived they had a right to part of the property by Turkish law & so forced our hands as to compel us to apply to court. The chapel site formerly belonged to different parties. The deed of one part was made out in the name of one of the brethren - a church member - & now one of the discontented. He gave a paper declaring the property not his own but belonging to the community. According to custom all such papers remain in the hands of the church committee. The most active man in the church was a committee man & had these papers in charge. He is now a leader amongst the discontented. They succeeded in drawing off two other members, leaving but two strong members in the chapel. Now their claim is, "The property belongs to the Protestant community, we are Protestant & therefore have a right to at least part of the property more especially as it is impossible to worship with the party occupying the chapel." As we absolutely refused to allow any such principle, although we offered to make other arrangements for them, they decided to force the affair & undertook to divide the chapel yard between these two men with the view of selling one part & building on the other part close beside the existing chapel. This forced us to apply to govt. to prevent the transfer of the property & require the man to make such a deed in my name. We engaged a lawyer to carry on the case. But it is Ramazan & Turkey & the affair moves very slowly. The only thing we fear is some unlooked for technacality. The faction that separated is a small part of the community, although comprising three of the leading church members. Financially they are a very small fraction of the

remaining members seem greatly stirred up &
show a good spirit indeed. I was very greatly
pleased & encouraged when I called for any who
wished spiritual conversation or had any thought
of applying for church membership to meet the
preacher & myself at a certain hour. The first
meeting we had was very pleasant & twelve persons
expressed their desire to unite with the church. The
next time the number was increased to 18.
All these were taken under examination. The
feeling was quite deep & in the midst of the
trouble was indeed refreshing & very en-cour-
aging. Truly man's extremity is God's opportunity.

On May first we had the an. meet. of our 4
Cooperative Alliance. These meetings have increased
in interest & usefulness year by year. This year
instead of closing in four days as we had planned
the meetings extended to ten days - two sessions
each day. The point of special interest this year
was the Russian part of the field. We had delegates
from Kars, Erivan (Etchmiadzin church) & Shushi,
also the young man Hohannes Avderanian
the converted Moslem about whom we wrote
in '83-4-5. He was sent to Sweden by the Swedish
missionaries where he spent two years & was or-

dained as an evangelist & has been working in Russia as an evangelist. He has developed magnificently & his presence made this meeting memorable. These Russian brethren look to us & Shushi has now become an integral part of Erzroom Station. There was no other course left but & with trust in the Lord we extended our hand to Shushi. We did it "with a hope that scarce knew itself from fear" for your letter arrived announcing that there might be a reduction in estimates. The simple fact is a reduction is an absolute impossibility. We propose instead of accepting a reduction of 100 £. to receiving an increase in appropriations of 100 £. Reduction cannot be thought of & must not be. The Sweedish society has no helpers employed in the district of the Caucasus. That society is young & enthusiastic in "preaching the Gospel" & dont think so very much of the business part of the work. The missionary affords financial assistance to a native society working in Shamakhi but he has no supervision of the work. They (the Sweedes) propose to establish a school in Tabreez. They are very ready to work in harmony with us. But we must be ready to afford greater financial assistance. The fact the work in Russia is exceedingly promising now is the time to carry forward that work & it demands as much assistance as any place you have in charge i.e. it is just as important.

11 The reports from the different outstations both in Turkey & Russia were very encouraging on the whole. There was a deep feeling prevailing indicating if not strong revival, at least deep thought.

The question of the work in Kassim (Yodovesen and Komatsör villages) was considered & though a special plea from a few young men that threatened abandonment might not be carried out, it was recommended to withdraw from the place for at least a year. ¶ Immediately after the meeting I visited the place & arrange for executing the plan. But I found things so changed that I could not do so. There was a very deep feeling manifest amongst the young men & they had arranged for daily prayer meetings. Several of those who had not even attended chapel for a long time were taking part in the meetings. They met together by themselves & without my knowledge prepared & signed a paper as follows. "We, the undersigned, pledge ourselves in the following words "I will walk in the strength of the Lord Jehovah."" One added this signature the following "I have already vowed myself to the Lord, then renew the vow to be kept till death, may the Lord help me". They sent me the paper & acquiesced in the thought that we could not take back our decision at once & that they should be on probation for a time. They plead, "do not cast us off now, give us your sympathy & advice, leave the question of assistance in abeyance, & in that way give us an opportunity to show our sincerity". So the affair stands & I returned realizing that the word of the Lord would not return void. Lodovun may yet be revived. One young man, son of a Protestant - but a prodigal, was engaged in drawing stones from the mountain. He could bring ~~two~~ two loads a day, one before & one afternoon. Finding that he could not get back in the afternoon in time for prayer meeting turned his oxen out to pasture & lost his half day & load of stones, in order to gain the good of the meeting.

We are now preparing for the road & hope to be able to get away in three weeks or a month. I am sorry to have to report that Miss Preston's health is not encouraging & we are in great doubt as to what to advise her. Since coming here a peculiar headache has evidently developed & has been a very great hinderance to her work & does not give good promise for the future. I imagine she ought to have a change although she is in doubt, whether her trouble is from the climate, thinks it is not ~~or not~~, & to find a place for change is hard. I trust we may be able to see our way before we leave. Miss Powers is also not strong & so our reinforcement has been very greatly hindered by ill-health from work. It looks much as if one or both of these ladies would have to withdraw at a very early date on account of ill-health. The needs of Erzroom in this respect are as imperative as ever & the more so as Mrs Chambers & I leave.

With very kindest regards & hoping to see you soon

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom May 1890.

Rec'd June 5. 1890.

16p

Erzroom May 30. '90.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Smith.

I am very glad to be able to report the birth of a baby girl to Mr. & Mrs. Richardson on Tuesday 27th. Both mother & child are at the present writing doing well & Mrs. Richardson gives good promise of speedy recovery.

We are planing to leave here about the 13th of June so that we may see the friends here in good form before starting on our journey. If we are permitted to carry out our plans we will reach New York about the middle of August.

On account of Miss Preston's state of health she may accompany us to Trebizond for a change & see how her trouble is in the fall.

We trust that all hope is not lost that we may have both a missionary & missionary lady this fall. I wish I dare think of remaining till some one comes, but I do not think it would be wise.

I am trying to get permission to go through Russia but I am very doubtful about succeeding. If I do not go that way our plan is to leave here about the middle of June & via Cple. reach U.S. about the middle of Aug. We do not want to make the journey too hard.

....I have just had an interview with Miss Preston which has given the question a different aspect in my mind. Her physical condition is such that her remaining here would be little gain to the work & at very great risk to her own health. Always being blessed with good health she has been very loath to admit to herself that her state is such as to require her to abandon her chosen work. I see it has been a very great trial to her & only after long consideration she has come to the point of admitting that she is not in a fit state to remain. She says that from a medical point of view she would not hesitate a moment to advise anyone else in a similar condition to seek change at once, but not only that ~~but~~ she feels that as she has no hope of improvement *here* it would not be right for her to remain unable to do any work of account. With past experience she thinks it would be unwise to remain here next winter. It is a very great trial & disappointment not only to her but this all. Miss Preston proposes now to go with us to Trebizond & spend some time there until the mission can take action at An. Meeting as to what she had better do. We take her at least as far as Trebizond as this is the only chance she will have & it would be difficult for Mr. Richardson to leave to take her to Trebizond in the fall. It is ~~[illegible]~~ barely possible that when we reach Trebizond we may decide best to take her on to Cple, or even to America. I feel much the responsibility of advising this step but there is no time for delay or obtaining advice from the mission. But I think I can satisfy you when I see you as to the necessity & wisdom of the plan.

This question emphasizes very emphatically the question of supply for Erzroom. I had an interview with Miss Powers yesterday on this question. She also feels very keenly her position. She is well on to being an invalid. However as she says she has the language & can work through the teachers in the school & do a very great deal in the way of directing & advising the teachers & looking after the spiritual condition of the pupils. In this way her being here under the circumstances is very good. But her health does not at all permit her to do what a lady missionary might or ought to be able to do. What Miss Powers can do is confined to the school & it is not sufficient for the school & the work for women is at a stand still. I am sorry to fill each letter with these questions but we most earnestly hope that some one or ones will be ready to start for Erzroom when we reach America.

By return post an answer to this letter might reach us in Cple. & we would be very glad to have your views on these items more especially on Mrs Preston's case.

A letter also could reach us in London.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

Rec'd June 23.

Constantinople July 2. 1890

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr Smith:

You will see that we have gotten so far on our journey. We left Erzroom June 13th & had a very good journey so far. However I now heartily wish myself back in Erzroom. The news from there, as possibly Mr. Richardson has informed you, is very disquieting. On Friday June 20th a colision took place between Turks & Christians resulting in much damage of life & property. On the June 18th the Government ordered a search for Arms in the Armenian church & schools. The Armenians closed the schools sending the keys to Govt. & closing all their shops. On Friday the riot occurred — Christians fired (it so seems) on the Turkish police killing one man & wounding several others. Seven or eight Christians were killed & many wounded. The Turkish mob rushed through the city — killing & wounding, stoning houses breaking into some & sacking them. Our houses were stoned & many windows broken as also the English & French Consulates. At latest authentic advices things were quiet though feeling was very strong & more troubles were anticipated. I wish I were there not that I could do much but in such circumstances company is something. Our friends were safe & keeping up well. However the affair may take a serious turn & become a subject of diplomatic action & if anything were to occur to change the status of Erzroom I think we missionaries should be there if possible. But what to do just now I do not know. We delay a couple of days here in order to get later news fr. Erzroom before proceeding on our journey. I may say that before leaving Erzroom nothing of the kind was anticipated. It was a result of a telegram to the Sultan stating that arms were stored in those places. - Nothing of the kind was ~~found~~ found.

We were very much rejoiced at the news we received just before leaving Erzroom i.e. of the appointment of Mr. McCallum to Erzroom. We trust he will be along in good time. Possibly we may see him in America as I hear his sister expects to see him there. We are planning to sail from Liverpool about Aug 1st. just what day we do not know.

I spent a couple of days in Trebizond & tried to do what I could. We now hear the pastor has resigned.

Hoping to see you soon
Yours very truly
W. A. Chambers

P.S. We propose to land at New York. Mrs. Reynolds accompanies us, also probably Miss M^c^Callum though we have not yet seen the latter.

Cons ple, July 2, 1890.

Rec'd July 17.

Rev. W. N. Chambers.
DUNDAS STREET
Woodstock, Aug 28th 1890

ev. Judson Smith D.D. Rec'd Aug. 29
Boston,

y dear Dr. Smith,

We have just received a note from
Dwight of Cple the matter of which
has sent you. It has always
n a little regret that we got
ay from Erzroom so soon. Now
view of this news we feel very
ongly. I now write to ask the
ention of the P. Com. to the question
say that if the Com. think it
isable my brother & myself are
dy for immediate service in
oom. It would be to leave families
t & go by quickest route there.
hink it of importance that Erzroom
ld be well manned at the
e of any occupation by

Russians. In case you dec
to send one gun, I think it ha
better be myself as it would
very hard on my bro's wife
left alone -- more so at least
than on my wife.

I trust you will be able to deci
at once & telegraph us of the
decision.

Allow me to acknowled
your very kind note of the othe
day.

Yours very truly

W.H. Chamber

Amherst. Dec. 1st ~~Nov. 29.~~ 1890.

Rev. Dr. Judson Smith,
Boston

My dear Dr. Smith.

I have received letters from Erzroom in which Mr. Richardson writes that they had written to you urging that my brother might go out to Erzroom for at least the winter. I also received a note from my brother saying that you had communicated with him. I had already sent on to him Mr. Richardsons letter to me. My brother seems ready to consider the question. I would not like to urge him to leave his family, yet ~~it~~ as he is ready to entertain the question, it may be quite possible for him to do so. If his family can be arranged for, I would like to urge very strongly his going. It may be apparently extra expense, but oftentimes larger expenditure is economy. Mr. Richardson is anxious to do all he can but the work is very heavy & in addition one of the best workers & most trusty advisers - the pastor of the Erzroom church - has resigned. This not only gives more work to the missionary, but the pastor was an all-round helper. In addition the political situation is still unsettled. So I would urge very strongly my brothers going.

I hope to be back at Auburndale next week when I shall have the pleasure of seeing you. I have had a very pleasant trip west & enjoyed visiting the churches. There is evidently an immense amount of work to be done amongst the churches.

Mr. Cole was called away the other day to attend the funeral of his father who died quite suddenly.

Yours very truly.
W. N. Chambers.

1833 Spruce St.
Philadelphia [illegible]

[illegible] Smith Esq.
[illegible]

My dear Dr. Smith,

Your note [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] Chambers [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] important [illegible]

my brother's [illegible]

I hope to be [illegible] next week, when I shall have the [illegible] of seeing you. I have had a very pleasant [illegible] week & enjoyed visiting the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Mr. Cole was called away the other day to attend the funeral of his father who died very suddenly.

Yours [illegible]

[illegible]

Amherst, Dec. 1, 1890.
Rec'd Dec. 2.

1833 Spruce Street.
Philadelphia. Jan. 17th 1891.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston.

My dear Dr. Smith,

As you know we consulted with Dr. Webber in Boston & he recommended to Mrs. Chambers to consult a specialist. As we were coming to Philadelphia the matter was delayed till our arrival here. The other day Mrs. Chambers consulted with Dr. Goodell & he prescribed treatment in his "rest cure" giving it as his opinion that Mrs. C. had been on the eve of prostration (nervous). She has not rested as we hoped she would & so she has decided to accept Dr. Goodell's very generous offer & will go into the hospital in a day or two. The Dr. says six weeks treatment will be necessary.

Having some time at my disposal I have, through Mr. Williams, been able to arrange to do some reading in the University library & have also taken up a course in ~~Hebre~~ Arabic so getting what I can't get in Erzroom & which will be valuable to me there.

We have little news from Erzroom. The item of importance – very sad in itself is the death

of Mr. Clifford-Lloyd, the English Consul. We were very sorry to hear it. We have no particulars.

Was there any recommendation made in reference to Erzroom in view of my bro's. not going?

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

P.S. Have you any news of ladies for Erzroom?

Philadelphia Jan. 17-90

Rec'd Jan. 20-1891

Rev. W. N. Chambers.

97 East 116th St.
Calvary Presbyterian N.Y.
Church. 2/26/91.

v. Judson Smith D.D. Rec'd March 11.
Boston

dear Dr. Smith,

I have just received letters from
zroom. You remember I remarked
a conversation with you that I thought
es Powers' question would right it
without such directly formal action
e station proposed & I wrote to the
iends expressing the same opinion.
now say that word has been re-
d from Miss Powers to the effect that
eels better in health & proposes to
n to Erzroom as soon as the
e open. Would it not be possible
you or Miss Child to write her
tter advising her not to return

to Erzroom, & possibly opening the wa
for her to come to America at t
first opportunity. The time has
come when action will be neces
as the roads may open early & she
may start back to Erzroom.

While writing I would like to ask
about the length of our furlough. As
understand it a year is the usual
length. How is the question usually
decided? I merely raise the question
now as it is getting about time to pl
for one or the other. I think Mrs
Chambers is gaining much fr. Dr Goodell's
rest cure in Philadelphia.

I received word fr. Miss Hattie Macallu
definitely deciding not to go to Erzroom
I called on his sister Miss Mary who is
this city studying medicine. I presented
matter to her & I would feel like urgin
her to go & she says she urged her sister
to go. Would you endorse Miss Mary's
going as an M.D. If she proves the ri
person I think it would be most desir

Yours very truly,
W. Nesbitt Chambers

Cape May Point N. Jersey
April 24. 1891.

Rev. Dr. Judson Smith,
Boston.

My dear Dr. Smith,

I presume the Prudential Committee has ere this decided the "maximum estimate" for 1892, & you have informed the missions. I have been wondering what the decision has been. I hear that "retrenchment" has been ordered, & I suppose it is a fact. I do not quite see that the Com. could do otherwise paralysing & painful in the extreme though it be.

You will remember that some time ago I mentioned the matter of our return to the mission field this fall. The question has been a burden for a long time & has scarcely been absent from my mind a moment. And after all these weeks of anxious thought & prayer I have come to the conclusion that I should not return at present. I know that "retrenchment" bears as heavily on your heart & on the hearts of all at the "Rooms" as on mine or on the heart of any missionary & you know too what are the thoughts & feelings of the men & women in the field by the letters burdened with the burning words wrung from discouraged & broken hearts. You know as well as I do that the injury done to the work is irreparable looked at from a human point of view. The work has received such a shock as to make it impossible to bring it up to the same standard again. The effect will be apparent in: 1. Paralysing the hands of the missionaries. 2. In discouraging the hearts of the native workers. 3 In shaking their confidence in the American churches. 4 In discounting Evangelical Christianity both in the eyes of Oriental Christians & of non-Christian peoples amongst whom work has been carried on, especially of those who are in partial sympathy & friendly to it. 5 In abandoning work half completed or prosecuting it in desultory way. 6. In closing doors now open, possibly not to open again for a long long time. But why prolong the terrible catalogue! It is too painful to dwell on.

It is, I know, my first duty to do what I can to advance the interests of this particular work. And as far as I can see there are two things to choose from. 1. If the Board continues the present plan of canvassing the churches & I can be of any service in that work I recognize my duty to be ready to serve. 2. There is another way however that I might be open to me & which opens a field for which I have had longings besides for the practical experience it would afford me i.e. to take temporary charge of a church. In this I think it would be legitimate for me to look somewhat to the advantage I might derive from it as well as the work I might be able to do. I would like not merely opportunities for work, but also opportunities for reading & study that would be of practical benefit both to myself & the work. I am ready to sacrifice in the foreign field, but I would like to get all I can while in America. This may be a difficult thing to obtain, but I would like to make the trial.

It is not necessary for me to urge this at length. I trust the Com. will assent, in which case I would be very glad of any assistance & counsel you may be able to render. This would relieve the Board by the amount of my allowance & I would hold myself ready to visit neighboring places in the interest of foreign mission work. I would be glad of as early a reply as possible.

that I may be on the look out for work.

It is right that I should say in this connection that Mrs Chambers ~~health~~ recuperation has been slower than we hoped it would be. We have returned to Cape May hoping that a little more sea air will be of benefit to her. She has made progress but the Dr. (Dr. Goodell) says much time will be necessary to complete recovery & he has forbidden all visiting or much work for some time to come. I asked him if he thought Mrs. Chambers would be able to return to the mission field this fall. He answered that he thought she would be if all went well, but that he could not give a definite opinion until July when he could see what progress had been made. Her health may be a determining factor in the question, but it is too much in doubt to be so now. The question of retrenchment seems to me a sufficient reason for determining the question. I need not assure you that it is with a sad & heavy heart I make this proposition. I have avoided putting the question as strongly as I feel. I would respectfully & earnestly urge the favourable consideration of the proposition. Praying that the Lord may guide us all

Yours very truly W. Nesbitt Chambers.

Cape May, Apr. 24, 1897.
Rec'd Apr. 28.

Cape May Point. May 4th 1891.

Rev Judson Smith D.D.
Boston &c.

My dear Dr Smith,

Your favor of April 29th received. Evidently you did not apprehend exactly the idea of my letter. You say that if Dr. Goodell's opinion in reference to Mrs. Chambers' health is favourable "the way would be open, as I suppose quite to your satisfaction & certainly to ours." It was not her health that led me to write as I did. Though the matter of her health may enter as a deciding element later, it need not now. It was simply the matter of retrenchment that led me to write as I did. It is painful to me and I hesitate to express my opinion & feeling so opposed to what you express would be the unanimous opinion of executive officers & Prudential Committee. I am exceedingly sorry to differ in opinion in such an important question. But I feel it is due to you as well as to the work to let you know my position & therefore I speak plainly. "Retrenchment in all departments except in the matter of missionary salaries" is what

I heard the other day. And you in your letter say in reference to the lack of funds & the embarrassment of the Prudential Committee, "but" it is "not in such embarrassment that it has any question of the wisdom of sending back to this field every missionary capable of service who is now in this country. The Prudential Committee would never raise the question for a moment whether this were to be done or not". This may all be right, my position all wrong, but I am forced to say that nothing can persuade me that my return to Turkey is of *more importance* that the sustaining of at leas some of those men & places about which Dr. Farnsworth speaks in the current number of the "Missionary Herald" page 191. ~~Much less can~~ No more can I be persuaded of the importance of sustaining a full force of foreigners and a reduced force of natives. Missionaries are exceedingly important but native workers are in their place *just as important* and should be as well sustained (i.e. kept in their work) as the missionaries. Certainly an increase of $24,000 in contributions for the first seven months of the financial year gives a certain amt. of encouragement, but it does not indicate that $75- or $100,000 extra will be contributed during the last five months. This would indicate that the work will not be relieved from the present disastrous embarrassment for the current year & probably not during the coming year. At the same time I cannot help but remember that the allowance to me on the mission field would afford the allowance of 4 or 5 native helpers. I am free to confess that even 3 native helpers such as could be secured for that outlay would be of more account to the work than one missionary, especially when the missionary ranks are as full as they are.

Other things could be said, but you know them already. I need only say that these are some of the considerations that lead me to urge the extension of my furlough at least for a year.

Yet your remark leads me to think that there may be special reasons for my going this fall. Last year I offered myself for stress service. I am in the same attitude today and am ready for on service if there are special reasons, that ~~ought~~ outweigh the ordinary reasons, demanding it. And I trust the Com. would not urge my return on the score of usage. And if I do not return I am desirous of casting about for work at once.

I have just at this moment rea letter from one of the helpers in Russia. He is at work at Samaghar. The retrenchment has distressed that work. Consulting my own personal feelings & the promise & needs of that work I would infinitely prefer resigning in favor of that work. Dear as the work is to me I would rather release my allowance to the Board that that work might be prosecuted in the assurance that it would accomplish greater results for the kingdom of God. I presume it is useless to ask what the Com. will not do. But I must relieve my conscience in pressing this upon you. The men in the field have a year's added experience. Am I really needed in the field in the curtailed condition of the work? Release me & sustain the work in Russia.

Yours very truly
W. Nesbitt Chambers

Copy May Com'd May 4 '9-
Rec'd May 5 -

47

Cape May Point. May 7. 1891.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston &c.

My dear Dr Smith,

Below I give a translation of a letter received from one of our helpers in Samaghar (Russia) & which I referred in my last. He is the man who wrote to Dr. Storrs.

"Dear Sir,

. . . .

The Lord knows that it is distasteful to me to speak of my own ability or work. But in order to present to you the prosperous condition of the work I am obliged to say that I do not spare myself in any way for the establishment & prosperity of this work in so far as it is possible to endure or the conditions of life permit. As opportunity offered I have planned I have spoken, I have worked in any & every capacity. It is possible to say that the work is in a condition most favourable to be worked up into progress. Spiritual, experienced, & wise workers however are necessary, & certainly they in their turn need those who in every way will assist & encourage. I do not forget to say that for all this progress we are indebted, first to God & then to my fellowworkers & the zeal of the community. At any rate, it is sufficient that we have gained in this broad field such a remarkable position that the attention, as well as the sympathy of the people, is turned to us in the expectation that "these people (evangelicals) will accomplish something, & it will be something great." But to what good, if "the mountain labors & brings forth a mouse" as the saying hath it? Certainly nothing but the overthrowing of the work established by years of labor to the sorrow of friends & joy of enemies. It was for that that I wanted to come to America.

Ah, Sir, how difficult it is to discharge the duty of plain speech. But I trust you will bear with my boldness, when I say that you also are under as great obligations to this land as we are. Now is the time for you to discharge that duty. "Strike the iron while it is hot," is the homely proverb.

Allow me to repeat that one of first and most pressing necessities is a well organized and well established central school in Samashar with industrial departments, where the rising generation may be taught to be more industrious & duty loving. I am convinced by experience that such an institution would become the means also of removing the deadness and irregularity that surrounds us. And because my desire was centred in the establishment of such an institution, after long effort & feeling the imperative necessity I became personally responsible for it. (Evidently to the Govt. W.R.C.). And for its establishment and prosperity I am ready to sell my coat, but with that the question could not be settled, since the needs are so great.

After writing in January we secured the services of a licensed teacher whose ability is all we could desire or demand & who is now with us. Together we have begun the work of the school. We have obtained from Government the privilege of maintaining a school of 60 scholars. But what can we do since the number of scholars of full school age is already between 80 & 100. Oh, how difficult it is to turn these innocent children away from the door of the school and direct them to the darkness of ignorance & superstition, to deprive them of mental & spiritual training, & permit them to grow up in prodigality & all sorts of evil. You are happy that in your land you do not meet such painful circumstances.

While we were working with zeal to secure the future of the school we received a letter from ~~Mr~~. Richardson saying "We are unable this year to assist the Samaghar School." Behold, an added sorrow! What will we do? We have already pledged ourselves to the teacher for a year to pay 500 roubles & a house. If we add to that 200 roubles for general expenses we have a sum of 700 roubles. From the contributions of the Community and the income of the School we can scarcely raise 400 roubles. Therefore 300 roubles remain on the School Committee whose surety I am. We sent a report to Erzroom entreating that the proposed 36 Liras (Turkish) might be sent. We await the reply.

As I said above I am pledged in the Lord to work for this enterprise. Let me put before you the things that are necessary ~~which are lacking~~ not merely for a well established high school, but for a well ordered common school, in which might be kept for 100 to 120 scholars. In consultation I have made up this estimate

Suitable school building - an imperative necessity	1000. roubles
Licensed Teacher (having Govt. diploma)	500 "
Assistant Teacher	300 "
Incidental expenses	200 "
Total	2,000 "

97 East 116th St. N.Y.
May 21. 1891

Counting the average tuition for each pupil at 3 roubles a year the income from that source would be 300 or 360 roubles. The people would make this up to 5 or 600. This would leave a balance of 1400 or 1500 roubles.

You know my proposition to you was that I should come to America with the hope of obtaining the means to do this work. But because the school is newly established, another thought has arisen in my mind. If you think it well for me to come I am ready to do so. But if your judgment is that I should remain here for this work for a season it will be necessary that you satisfy me in making sure the establishment of this school. That is, that for the welfare of this work & especially for this school you present the question to the churches and benevolent men that contributions may be made for the above mentioned amount, that it may not become a burden of debt on the school committee or I should more properly say on myself.

I am persuaded that I have your sympathy & I know you love the work. Therefore if you are desirous of leaving in my heart & in the hearts of the people of this district a memorial grateful & undying accept one of these two propositions. Either write me that

that I may come in person, or work that this money contribution be made. I am full of hope that your efforts together with our humble endeavours will be crowned with generous success.

But I specially entreat that you write as soon as possible & put me at rest that I may arrange my work accordingly. The evangelistic work is in a very hopeful condition.

Accept my sincere love & salutations for yourself & Mrs Chambers & your dear children & for all brethren & sisters in Christ,

Your Friend

(Signed) Zohrab Sarkisian"

Rec'd May 8

I have no doubt you have many letters of this nature. I would commend it to your perusal. I have the greatest confidence in & respect & esteem for the writer. I think he is destined to do a powerful work.

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

97 East 116th St. N.Y.
May 21. 1891.

Cape May Point N. Jersey.
May 11. 1891

Rev. Judson Smith DD
Boston

My dear Dr. Smith,

Your favor of was duly received. In reply I would say that it was because I supposed I knew the position of the Prudential Committee very well that I wrote as I did. Long ago I became convinced that it was not the will of the Committee to apply the allowance of a missionary, in case of his withdrawal, to the sustenance of any part of the native agency of his field, nor did I hope that my particular allowance would go to Erzroom, or even to E.T.M. It ~~would~~ was in my mind an illustration, & the comparrison still stands & is just as forceful, notwithstanding the fact that the Prud. Committee has taken the position it has. And the thought still recurs to my mind:- the work in Samaghar is of the utmost importance. The amount of my allowance for one year would establish that work in permanence. The establishment of an organized permanent institution for Christian work in such a place is of greater importance than one year's service by myself or any other missionary. Now this touches the principle involved which is the sustaining the missionary force in full, & throwing reduction when it comes on the native — or "Retrenchment in all departments of work excepting in the matter of missionary salaries". If I were a Chinese missionary, as far as I understand the field, I would heartily endorse the sustenance & increase of the missionary force. But for Turkey, & I think for Japan, & to some extent for India that policy does not commend itself to me for application.

When a missionary enters a field for the first time he has simply to create a desire, an appetite on the part of the people for the food he brings them. To that end he has an immense amount of pioneer work to do. During this formative period he is all important. If his work is successful & progressive his all-importance diminishes year by year. His legitimate province is to set in motion those forces which will themselves the object in view. His ultimate aim is to *get* established amongst the people the permanent institutions of Christianity, to get the people reformed. It should not be his ambition to *do* that, but to *get* it done & to assist in it. Now, foreigners cannot carry to completion true reform in any country. They can inaugurate it, but it must be carried to completion by the people of the land. A country can only be reformed by its own people. It seems to me that this is natural, & I think it is in accord with what history shows. Therefore if I am right in this I am right in saying that just the moment the foreigner assumes work that properly belongs to the native, & for the accomplishment of which it is possible to get native workers, he usurps that which does not belong to him & in that he retards the true progress of the work. He assumes work that does not belong to him properly, & he prevents the legitimate worker from doing it. Therefore after his work has gotten a foothold, has taken shape & begins to afford the material, his careful aim should be to develop a "native agency" - a native pastorate, - a corps of workers such as evangelists, teachers, colporters &c. The responsibilities of the work should be put on these men in conjunction with the churches & communities organized. When a church is organized it should held responsible for the evangelization of its district at least & work in that district should be carried on through that church organization. This principle applied generally would make the native church from its organization primarily responsible for the evangelization of the country. Everything should be made to serve that end. That work being the great end in view it is more than the missionary, it is more than the missionary organization. These exist for that particular purpose & the end in view is of more importance than the instrument of its accomplishment. It at least should hold an equal place in estimation.

Now the American churches contribute two things to that work - men & money & they claim controll in respect of the men & money sent by them. And as they have entered into contract with the missionary to support him as their accredited agent in that work they hold themselves under obligations to redeem as a *first duty* that pledge. If there is to be reduction or retrenchment it must not touch the missionary or missionary organization. This means that the missionary & miss'y. organization are of *prime importance*. It is here that I find myself at variance. While I acknowledge the principle that the Am. Churches have a peculiar proprietorship in the men & money & so far forth have a certain right yet I feel it to be an error to emphasise that thought above the importance of the general work. There is something higher to be accom plished than what may be done through the controll of those men & that money, through the ~~mai~~ sustenance of the missionary & missionary organization, or through the maintenance of that right. A sacrifice has been made in providing the means. May not the effect of that sacrifice be made more far-reaching by the added sacrifice, partially at least, of the thought of the prime importance attaching to those means because those rights & obligations growing out of the idea of proprietorship?

True the church is pledged to the missionary & that pledge ought to be redeemed. But a pledge is a pledge. And the pledge made by the missionary to the individual native worker, or the pledge made by him to the church or community for assistance in carrying on its work, that it may pledge itself in turn to other workers are pledges made in all good faith by the missionary in the name of the church. Now to my mind these pledges in the matter of their redemption are of equal importance. I cannot quite see how the church can say to the native pastor or other worker your services are no longer necessary, or to the community we can't assist you as we hoped, & it may not act in the same way toward the missionary. The morality to my mind is the same in either case, nor is it gotten over on the principle that appropriations are made from year by year. That principle may be made use of in some cases, but in very many cases it is impossible of application. If hardship is considered, very often the hardship is on the side of the native worker or community. The missionary may be called home where he may gain his livelihood & continue Christian work as a preacher. In the case of the native worker the first may be exceedingly difficult & the second impossible, & the progress of a community may be retarded. It may be that the American church or we might say the American section of the kingdom may have, in full, the right claimed. But is not the universal kingdom of Christ of greater importance than any part of it? And should not the administration of the opportunities afforded in God's providence be in the highest interests of the whole & not to any great extent at least in accordance which what is conceived to be the right of a part secured by the accident of possession? Should there be any "most favoured nation" clause in the articles of agreement for work between the different parts of Christ's kingdom? The missionary organization is confessedly a temporary arrangement organized with the view of establishing in the lands where work is carried on permanent

Christian institutions. In stress should not the element that is intended to be permanent be favoured, should it not at least be favoured as much as the temporary element? Certainly for years to come I think missionary supervision will be necessary & I would not urge this thought to the extent of withdrawing the entire temporary element in the work. But the American churches are under obligations to the work to sustain & carry it on aggressively. The two elements involved in that are the foreign & native workers. To favor one at the expense of the other becomes an injury to the work. If it is toward the missionary it is unduly favoring that which is intended to be the temporary to the injury of that which is intended to be the permanent. It is exalting the instrument above the object to be accomplished.

I know there are many things to be considered which I can't refer to here & I have already taken up too much space: But my contention is that, as much importance at least should be ascribed to the Native Agency as to the Foreign Agency & should be put on equal ground at least in the matter of sustaining them. Not equal financial support, but equal moral support & that proportion of financial support & consideration due to each without favoritism.

I have written this & after putting it on paper have delayed to see whether my mind would change in any point. I feel stronger than ever the importance of sustaining the native agency & putting the principle of sustaining it on a fixed basis.

As to my return to Turkey this fall I can but say that the ~~the~~ expression of the need appeals to me very strongly & I would be slow to stand out against that thought. It has always been my desire to go where I could do the most effective service. I expect to be in Boston in the course of about three weeks & will see you about the matter.

Mrs Chambers has returned to Auburndale. She has improved much, but the Dr. still says it will take her a long time to regain perfect tone, though he is sure she will perfectly recover. Her condition may yet decide the question. After Commencement at Princeton I return to Auburndale.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers

Filed May 25, '91.

New York City May 16. 1891.
97 E. 116th Street.

Cape May Point N.J.
May 12. 1891.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston

My dear Dr. Smith

I send you the translation of another letter received from a converted Mohammedan of the Erzroom field.

"Rev Mr. Chambers

Dear Bro. in Christ,

I have a great desire to correspond with you, because you were the first to extend to me Christian sympathy. Yes you cared for me in the time of my trial & need, when Christ in his unbounded mercy ~~took~~ led me from ~~the~~ Mohammedan~~ism~~ darkness, then you were to me as a father & did much to defend me in my persecution. I well remember all these things.

Blessed be the Lord God who sent me to this land to preach the Gospel of Salvation to the poor. I believe that you never forget the seed you have sown or the plants you have planted & that you pray that the Lord would establish them, cause them to grow & bring forth fruit & also for the Spiritual welfare of many. Do not forget me, but remember me always in your prayers for I am in great need of strength & wisdom as I am being subjected to great persecution. I care not for the persecution if it was only of myself, but they try to prevent me from preaching the holy gospel. How can I not preach since the Lord has commanded me?

Let me tell you a little of these persecutions. After the meeting which was held in Shamakhi I was minded to go to Ezroom. My journey was full of blessed opportunities of sowing the life giving seed. But the enemy several times tried to prevent me. In Alexandropol when they heard that I was an evangelist complaint was made to the government & although I was several times subjected to examination by the police they were unable to accomplish anything against me. From there I went to Kars & hearing that it would be difficult to pass to Ezroom I turned through Kaghisman & Erivan toward Persia & went to Tabreez. By the favor of the Saviour everything was favourable. In every place we had the privilege of preaching the gospel. We took ~~to~~ two girls to the missionary school in Tabreez & brought back many books from there to Lamaghar.

Of all the journey the most favourable

opportunity I enjoyed was in Nachivan. I remained there twelve days & in the inns & coffee houses I conversed with the Mohammedans about our Lord Jesus. They listened with great desire. Their Sheikh came to my room with his Koran & we talked for five hours. This man was the best informed amongst the Mohammedans, but to what good as the Koran was not able to give light beside the Gospel. And he left me in wonder. Some of these men thought me an angel & not a man, & as I was leaving the city one came to me & with tears besought me that I would pray for him & sometimes write to him. I pointed him to Christ & continued my journey.

Now let me relate something of the persecution which the Lord is able to use for the spread of the Gospel. When I arrived in Tiflis I rented a room where I gave lessons to applicants in Oriental languages. (Because every person must have a legal occupation before the government). In addition I worked the work of the Lord in the city. ~~During~~ One evening of the week of prayer some Armenian & Turks were gathered in my room for prayer. After the meeting we were all arrested. The names of those who were with me were taken & they were dismissed, but me they imprisoned under guard of two soldiers for two days. The next (third) day they loaded all my books on my back & led me off to the court room. They asked my fault & I answered that I read the gospel and prayed. My books were subjected to examination. Twice my companions were called for examination. But after twenty days the Lord delivered us & my books also were returned to me, for the judge was a good man. Otherwise I would have been imprisoned eight months according to law.

From Tiflis I came to Shamakhi. Here the government kept my passport ten days & then commanding that I should hold no meetings returned it. Here also they are taking signatures ~~that~~ from the evangelicals that they may not go to the villages to preach the gospel. And the Russian Baptists have been ordered not to desiminate their doctrines. The preacher of Shamakhi Mr. Krekor will be sent back to Turkey. Possibly I will be sent back with him. I know not what to do. The Turkish Consul at Tabreez (Persia) has threatened that if I return there he will imprison me. Sometimes I think to pass over into Turkey to preach in other places, but it is hard to leave this place because the workers here are few especially amongst the Mohammedans there are none. If I do not go to Turkey I think of going to visit Shushi.

Markar Asadoorian has finished his studies & is now teaching at Samashar. Karakalla also has a teacher, but unfortunately he is sick. Bad. Amerkhanian is at Helsingforth & they say he will remain there another year.

With all my heart I salute you & your lady. Accept my love. Grace be to you

Your humble brother, the servant of Christ

Hohannes Avedaranian."

(John Gospel-son)

P.S. "I am engaged here in translating the Koran from Arabic to Armenian. This is my work here before the Govt." Dr.

Much has been written about this young man. He is a splendid fellow & worthy of all confidence. I would think that nothing would better be made public that would be traceable to him or the district. It is now about seven years since he was converted.

Yours very truly

W. Nesbitt Chambers.

Filed May 25, '91.

Rev. W. N. Chambers. S

50

Lebanon Valley House,

E. M. BOLTZ,
Proprietor.

THIS HOUSE
HAS BEEN NEWLY FURNISHED
THROUGHOUT.

Lebanon, Pa., May 27 1891.

Rec'd May 28.

Rev Judson Smith D.D.
Boston,

My dear Dr. Smith

Your favor of May 25th was received
is morning. I agree that there is no need
further discussion of the question. But
w me one word as I did not evidently
e my self clear. I do not mean to say that
e too many missionaries in the field. There
at the more. There ought to be at least
r missionaries & two lady missionaries
zroom station. But the native force
uld be kept up in the same proportion.
is no question about the need of workers
th foreign & native. My contention is that
uction or retrenchment should fall in equal proportion
uch; that "retrenchment in all depart-

ments, except in the matter of missionary sal is a mistake. There is much greater evi in too great a disproportion in favor of missionary element than in the opposi Certainly self-support is vital, but I am sure but that it has been somewhat reta by too great a preponderance of missiona controll. Just this much in way of ex planation.

I expect to be in Auburndale abou the middle of June. Mrs Chambers is the now. I will then be able to confer with y about the question of our return this fa

Yours very truly
W. Nesbitt Chambers

Rev. W. N. Chambers. S

51

SHED MONTHLY,
GUST AND SEPTEMBER,
HE SESSION FOR
RESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
TED BY THE PASTOR.

Our Church at Work,
97 East 116th Street,

New York, Aug. 3d 1891

Filed Aug. 26.

y dear D. Smith,

I presume you have from
groom the same information
I received this morning. He tells
arrest + release, & the retention
his letters & papers. He asks me
eturn this fall, if at at all possible.
a note from Mrs. Chambers last
k. She informed me that your thought
was that the question of our return
ght be decided in the negative. I had
taken it. But here it comes up again.
is a necessity I presume I can
nge plans again. But as I pre-
me you have information & have
ady had the question under

consideration I await your
thought before meditating any
further change of plan. W
will be the outcome of Mr Richards
arrest I have not the slightest knowl
Many of his letters & papers were n
intended for government inspectio
There is evidently a little trouble
the church again consequent on
refusal of the call to Br Krekor
to become pastor of the church the

I notice that Miss Powers has
cided not to return to Erzroom.

Yours very truly
W. Nesbitt Chambers

SHED MONTHLY,
GUST AND SEPTEMBER,
HE SESSION FOR
RESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
TED BY THE PASTOR.

Our Church at Work,
97 East 116th Street,
New York, Aug 9th 1891

Judson Smith D.D.
Boston,

y dear Dr Smith,

Your favor just received.
orwarded it to my brother as he
at the present time in Ingersoll.
esitate to decide the question
have asked him (my brother) to
e his judgment to you. Possibly
the information sent you thro.
Dwight the question might be
er. Mr. Richardson merely states
fact of his arrest. He would
Mr. Dwight the particulars
h would throw light on

Rev. W. N. Chambers.

New York, Aug. 9, '91.

Filed Aug. 26

the seriousness of the question when the decision was made that we should not return this fall ~~we~~ ~~made~~ I felt it was the best. Mrs Chambers needs the rest, & I do not think she will get ~~good~~ the best results if I leave her alone. However I presume the condition of things out there is possibly of paramount importance, & I have not sufficient data on which to found a judgment. May I ask from where came the idea of an American Consul for Erzroom? Your note is my first knowledge of it.

Have you any communication from Mr Macallum?

I expect to be here till Saturday morning next & on the following Monday in Auburndale. If you from my Do. in the mean time I'd be glad to hear from you.

Yours very truly

W. Nesbitt Chambers

Rev. H. N. Chambers

Auburndale, Aug 21. 91.

Rec'd Aug. 26. 1891.

53

Auburndale Aug 21. '91.

y dear Dr Smith,

Doubtless you have received
e this my bro's. judgment on the
estion of our return to Erzroom.
is very decided in his opinion.
have been waiting for your
gment & decision. I hesitate
ge you to a decision, because
el the critical condition of affairs
zroom district, not merely as
ards our work, but also the
itical outlook & it needs careful
sideration. But as you know
wish to make our plans - if
go in one way & if we dont
nother, and time for either is
precious. We want to

run over to Canada & delay interfe
with that visit very much.

So we would be glad of you
very earliest decision possib

My brother suggests Mr Dwight's
going to Erzroom for a visit. I pre
that is an impossibility. But if
could be done it would be very f
If Dr. Raynolds had been called over
Van for medical work he possibl
could have done something du
the time he would have to wait.
Dr Thom has no language to use
though he may be able to give som
assistance in the way of advice

Hoping to hear from you
soon

Yours very truly
W. Nesbitt Chamber

P.S. We plan to leave for Woodstock, Canada on
nesday.

Woodstock Ont.
Sept 28. '91.

Rev. Judson Smith DD
Boston

My dear Dr Smith,

I am sorry for the delay in the return of these letters. I had forwarded them to my bro. and they remained there. I trust the delay has not inconvenienced you.

I have not hear of the outcome of Mr Richardson's arrest. I was glad to note the protest in the current Herald. I wrote Mr. Dwight about visiting Erzroom. I trust he may do so. If not, now that my bro. is going to Bardezag possibly he might be able after getting settled to make visit there. I am sure the people would e delighted & it would be a good thing f it could be managed.

Rev. W. N. Chambers
Woodstock. Ont. Sept. 28, 1891
Rec'd Sept. 30

I rejoice that the way has opened for his retu
While I regret that it is not to Erzroom, I see plai
it wouldn't do for him to return to reside ther

We leave here today & expect to be
the vicinity of Utica at the time of the Boar
meeting. I hope to be able to be present at the
meeting. ~~Any~~ I trust the meetin
may be all that is anticipated.

With kindest regards,
Yours very truly,
W. Nesbitt Chambers

P. S. I have just heard fr. Miss Steinberg. Whil
desirous of entering foreign mission work sh
is prevented by circumstances & possibly
may be prevented entirely.

Within the next three weeks, if there
need of communication letters will reac
me if directed to the care of Saml. Wells Esq
Fayetteville - N.Y.

W. N. C.

Rev. W. N. Chambers

55

Whitestown N.Y.
Oct 9th 1891.

v Dr Judson Smith,
Boston.

Rec'd Oct. 12th.

Done C.H.C. & Ans.

Dear Dr Smith,

Your favor received. I plan to be at Pittsfield as you propose. Will it be asking too much at this te date to ask for ~~to~~, 1. The footings f the Tabular views of the three Turkish issions – Eastern, Central & Western. ✓
The footings for all the Stations the Eastern Mission
the full Tab. view of Erzroom Station.
not all of these as much of them as possible
ould be glad of the sum total of appropria s for each mission – exclusive of missionary ries.

I am sorry to ask for these just

at the last moment. But I think th
might work in nicely at a meeting suc
as you plan at Pittsfield.

I am sorry my bro. cannot be
present.

Yours very truly
W. Nesbitt Chambers.

Rev. W. N. Chambers

56

97 East 116th Str. N. York City.
Nov. 2nd 1891.

ev. Judson Smith D.D. Rec'd Nov. 3
Boston

Dear Dr. Smith.

A card from Mr. Richardson
ys he has written you at length
out affairs in Erzroom & refers
~~to that~~ letter for information.
you could spare me the perusal
t I would be much obliged.
am sorry Mr. Dwight does not
th Erzroom & possibly Mr. Barnum
d not. In the card Mr. R. gives one
r of news which disturbs me very
ch. The people have invited a temporary
pply a "crank" who will I fear
infinite harm. We had sad
perience with him in former years
devoutly hope the Lord will bar
going to Erzroom.

A letter just in from Mrs Richards
gives an account of the trials
they have been passing through becau
of Mr. McCallum's health - or serious
illness I should say. It
all makes me feel as if I should
be there. I will be glad of any
news about affairs in Erzroom

Yours very truly
W. Nesbitt Chambers

Rev. W. N. Chambers,

Missionary Eastern Turkey

97 East 46th Str. N.Y.
Dec 2nd 1891.

ev. N. G. Clark D.D.
Boston.

y dear Dr. Clark,

I call to mind your remark
de to me one day when you were
ting in the shoe-black's chair. I had
eady felt strongly the condition of affairs
t called it forth & I was anxious
o all I could to assist, for the work
ust as much mine as anybody else's.
iding that, I have been constrained
onder if you at Boston have changed
r thought about the conduct of affairs.
has been insisted that the visits
issionaries to the churches are of
utmost importance. Yet I
repeatedly offered my services
that work & since the meeting
Board at Pittsfield have not been

called on once. Before that tim
I had to decline two invitations be
cause of distance & expense. But
since then nothing. Is it that the
necessity has passed, or am I no
wanted? I have held myself ready
for that work, & I am free to confess
that I am just a little disappoint
Now the question of whether I c
be of use in that work, will help
determine our plans in the immedia
future.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Rev. W. N. Chambers.

58

Rec'd Dec. 3.

97 East 116th Street NY.
Dec. 2th 1891.

v. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston,

y dear Dr. Smith,

If you call to mind, at the time ~~that~~ it was decided that we ld defer our return to Erzroom, I said u that I was ready to spend the time much as possible in visiting the rches in the interest of the work. I in- ated the same to Dr. Creegan. At the close e meeting at Pittsfield I made the ne remark to you again. Now, after all t has been said about having missionaries t various churches - of the good it did c. & ~~of~~ in view of remarks made to me per- ally, & it seems a very strange thing I have not received a single ap- ntment from one of the secretaries though it is now nearly two months s the meeting at Pittsfield. I am fre to confess that I feel disappointed & somewhat hurt. As I have sai to you, I had looked forward to becomin acquainted with some of the Congregatio pastors & churches. Had I had previou acquaintance with any, I might have ha a channel through which to introduce m self. But not having that acquaintanc I would come in contact with t arrangements of the district Sec's. as th naturally have the visitation of their re spective districts systematically arran Of course it is simply possible that the reason of my not being called upon is t it may be considered I do not inter audiences in my addresses. If that the impression I have nothing to say, that remarks to the contrary should ne have been made. I have held myself ready for that work & have also been w to make other plans subservient t it. I also feel that the mone

sonal contact with the missionary
direct information about the work
greater interest there will be in the
ticular work on the part of the churches.
I have felt it due to the Turkish
rk, more particularly that of Erzroom,
o what I could to bring it ~~to~~ the
tice of ~~the~~ as many churches as
sible. You may therefore understand
newhat of my disappointment.
w I do not wish to force myself
any way. I have written thus plainly
ankly because I am jealous
much, if not more, for the work
s welfare, as for myself. And
ough I have had opportunity of making
sionary addresses in Presbyterian &
tist churches I feel strongly that
first duty is to the ~~part~~ interest
particular work in which I have
engaged.

Now I trust you will
ankly tell me if I can be

of assistance. I, as I say, ha
waited nearly two months, & the
question of my being of servic
will determine my plans for th
immediate future.

Yours very truly
W. W. Chambers.

Mr. Chambers

59

97 East 116th Street
N York Dec. 4th '91

y dear Dr. Clarke

Your note reached me
s morning. By the same delivery
eceived a note fr. Mr. Daniels
king me to call at his office
ring the day. Mr. Daniels has
own of my whereabouts all along
ave met him several times be-
es calling at his office several
es. He had his work all
nned out ahead & had not
e to make any appointments
me, & I presume was too
y to assist or direct me in
king them for myself. But I
distinctly stated to Dr Creegan
after the meeting of the Board
as ready for service anywhere
enewed my offers at the

the Board meeting & was holdin
myself in readiness. I was no
aware that my place of residen
would necessarily affect that
the fact is now my family retu
to Auburndale & as Mr. Daniel
has sent out some letters I wi
remain here to fill any that ~~may~~
may be made.

I would like to visit so
churches in New England, but
I presume that may be don
later.

Yours very truly
W. A. Chambers.

Rev. W. N. Chambers

60

97 East 116th Street
N York Dec 5. '91.

Dr Judson Smith Rec'd Dec. 8.
Boston

My dear Dr. Smith,

Mr. Daniels knew of my hereabouts & desires. Having his rk all planned for beforehand esides that such a large part of s district having been canvassed my brother, I presume he was busy to make other appointments me or to assist me to make m. But I had specially stated r. Creegan that after the meeting ld be available. I was not re that my being in New York ned interfere with visiting rches in New England. Although ad spoken to Mr. Daniels was waiting a call from

any source & I thought I had
made my desires plain.

Yesterday morning I received
a note fr. Mr. Daniels asking me
to call at his office which I did.
He is now planning appointmts
& wishes me to assist him for the
next three months. Mrs Chamber
returns to Auburndale toward
the close of this week for a short time. She has not
been at all well for for some
time, but is now much better.

I learn fr. Mr. Richardson that h
wrote you about his conference he
had last fall with Mr. Hoijer the
Sweedish missionary residing at
Tiflis under guise as a merchant.
I do not know the date, but if you
can find the letter I would be gla
of a perusal of it. I would judge it
came in Nov. or Dec.

Yours very truly
W. A. Chambers.

Rev. W. N. Chambers.
97 East 116th Street.
N. York - Dec. 14. '91

Rec'd Dec. 16.

v. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston,

y dear Dr. Smith,

Your favor received
d this morning. I also received a letter
m Mr. Richardson giving a
ther favourable report of the
ndition of things in the station.
His desire that I be in Erzroom by May 10th is
very well, if it were practicable.
thought is that I should be pre-
sent at a council called to make
final adjustment of the difficulties
in Erzingan. The disaffected
thren there have agreed to a
conciliation on condition
t the "church" be reformed &
status clearly defined.
y are ultra in their ideas

on the question - claiming tha
none but church members ha
any right to have any part - ev
to the extent of expressing opini
in church matters. Non-church m
bers must keep silent & be obedie
They also urge that the church ha
the right of appointing any one o
members to preside at the Commu
Table - He cannot distribute th
elements however. Each membe
must come forward in turn & parta
of the elements himself. The pasto
himself has no right to dispense t
communion. They make one o
two other minor claims. Mr. Ric
son proposed to settle these questi
by a council & expressed his desi
that I should be present to ass
at the deliberations. I confe
if the council succeeds it w
be a good thing, but it wil
be a very difficult thing to guide
to a decision that will be
acceptable all around. I wo
he had appointed it for fa
it would have been better i

2

t possibly he could not delay
the discontented ones de-
and the resignation of the
eacher. If my brother goes
Erzroom for a visit possibly
ould be done at that time. It
uld be exceedingly desirable
he could. I can't see
I could possibly get there
that time. We have
ught that possibly we
uld make May or June
r starting time. That how-
r is a tentative thought.
As you say the question con-
ning Miss Powers is a puzzling
. I concur in the thought that
should not return, seeing that
did not go back last ~~winter~~ fall.
eceived a note from her some
e ago in which she said she had
ided definitely not to return to
rroom. I took that as final &
ed it would remain so. I
in favor of her return Erzroom

as she requested to go & attend to
some of her things & possibly gradua
the class of girls. But as that wa
not done I was in hopes that whe
she wrote as her definite decision
would be final. This question bri
up the other one of supply. Wil
we have to return without any re
cruits? I have written to Miss Bu
& have not a reply as yet. What a
we going to do?

Mrs Chambers has not be
well. She left today for Auburnd
She will spend a day at New Hav
& then pass on to Boston (Auburnd

By the way, I was at Dr. Taylor's pra
meeting last Wednesday. The matte
of Mr. Richardson's arrest was bro
up by one of the members & I took o
casion to say something about
& the general attitude of the Turki
Govt. Dr. Thompson followed with
few remarks & ~~Dr~~ Taylor suggest
that Dr. Thompson & Prof. Hamlin be
pointed to consider whether anything
be done to sustain the Board in making
presentation to the proper authorities. I believ
you had been in communication with Mr Blair.
Yours truly W. H. Chamb

97 East 116th Street.
N. York Jan. 23. 1892.

Rev. Judson Smith. D.D.
1 Somerset St.
Boston Mass.

My dear Dr Smith,

Your favor of yesterday just received. I can see the difficulties in the way of my brother's going to Erzroom as proposed. The work of his own place and the An. Meet. of the W. T. M. coming about that time &c &c. Therefore I would not like to urge it too much. But I am very strongly of the opinion that if it is at all possible for him to go — certainly I would not think it wise for him to risk his own work *very* much — it would be an exceedingly desirable thing, & I feel quite sure it would be of great benefit. I am of this opinion because
1. My brother knows the situation in Erzingan — the reasons of the troubles &c. 2. He has the entire confidence of both parties in the community — with little or no prejudice of either party toward him. So often in such cases there is a bit of hard feeling or prejudice that complicates such matters.
3. He has the confidence of the brethren of the

station. 4 It is Oriental custom to have a "go-between" from the outside to help settle such disputes. His being an "outsider" would not militate against the desirability of his being present. The only question that can arise will be as to the advisibility of his leaving his own work at that time.

As to the second question you raise I would say that I have already written to Erzroom that as it seemed impossible for us to reach Erzroom so early in the spring, if the Erzingan question could be relegated to a later date I could be present to help give that trouble its quietus. It is of importance that there should be a meeting of workers each spring. I think that meeting has been of great value & it has always been held prior to the mission An-meeting. There was none held last year, which makes it more desirable that one should be held this year if possible. I would much prefer to have one held if at all possible in the spring, while personally it would be a great pleasure to me to meet the helpers in such a meeting on my return later in the year.

The easiest & best way out of the trouble for Erzroom is that my brother should go.

If he cannot go, however, I see no objection to your proposing to the Erzroom brethren that if practicable they postpone the conference in reference to the Erzingan question till September. If that is impracticable then I see no way than for things to take their course & the meeting be held in Erzingan at the appointed time.

This all raises the question in my mind as to whether we should not start back at once. But I do not see my way clear to do so.

Now as to the third question - that in reference to Miss Powers return. Yesterday I read a diary letter from Miss Powers written to Mrs Chambers in which she details an amount of work apparently equivalent to a journey to Erzroom. She said nothing about her return there however. Evidently her health is wonderfully improved. This will give her more hope of returning to E. I would spare her feelings just as much as possible. As you have written fully to my brother the state of the question possibly he can persuade her. A little further delay till you hear the result of his efforts might be as well. As you have given him the

the judgement of the mission aswell as your own it might be aswell to let him understand that you await to hear the results of his efforts to persuade Miss Powers. If he is unsuccessful she ought to know at once the decision of the mission.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Rec'd Jan. 25-

97 East 116th Str.
N. York City Feb. 3rd '92.

Rev Judson Smith DD
Boston

My dear Dr Smith,

I received a note from Mr. Richardson in which he speaks about the purchase of a bit of property, or at least the proposition to purchase, lying between the chapel & school in Erzroom. It is forced on the market by the death of the proprietor. It would have been purchased at the time the school was built, but the owner held it at a a price five times its value. It is necessary to the completion of the school & chapel property. The people owning the property have given considerable trouble in time past, & if it passes into the hands of a person very hostile to the gospel - very great annoyance might result. The haste in the matter is because of the custom holding there. When a property ~~be~~ is being sold the neighbors are informed & the nearest neighbor has the refusal of the property. When he refuses, it is sold to some one else. We are neighbors on both sides of this property, the offer will be made. We ought to have it & therefore should not refuse. It would

It would be a very great mistake to allow it to pass into other hands. I would therefore urge very strongly that some provision if possible would be made for the purchase. It would be of the greatest importance to let the brethren in Erzroom have the earliest possible word about. Though you may generally count on delay, sometimes ~~the~~ affairs are done hastily.

This suggests the question of a new chapel in Erzroom. It has only been the paralyzing effect of retrenchment that has kept me silent on the question. I have always felt it a very important question; there ought to be a new chapel there. The people are not able to do much. They are now unable to do as much as they might have done a few years ago. The funds for building would necessarily come from the outside. If it were at all possible to get a firman & build there before the country is passed over to the Russians it would give the work a legal standing & the Prot. community would enjoy the same rights as the other community. If this can't be done now it ought to be kept in mind. The property now in the market ought to be purchased with the view of enlarging the chapel building.

I understand also that the W.B.M.I. has declared itself ready to do something for the girls school. That ought also be done, but $200 will not be sufficient for it. The residence ought to be overhauled at the same time. I was not aware of the estimate, or I would have suggested a larger one.

The Manhattan Assoc. appointed a Com. consisting of Drs Ward, Behrends & Virgin & Rev E M Bliss to cooperate with the Com of Dr. Taylor's church to devise ways of helping along the pressure on the Dept. at Washington for more vigorous action in Turkey.

I would be glad to know just what questions have been presented at Washington further than the arrest of Messrs Richardson & Crawford. ~~Are~~ Is the question of the condemnation of the books included in your representations to Washington? Has anything been said about the official right of British consuls to protect Am. Citizens?

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

New York Feb. 3, '92.

Rec'd Feb. 6.

Boonton N.J.
Feb 12 '92.

ear Dr Smith,

Your favor received
nclose Mr. Richardson's
ter. He says he would enclose
raft of a letter to you which
ailed to do. I hope you have
ceived the letter. It affords
very great gratification
t you are able to speak so
efully of financial assistance.
do hope that property may
purchased. You notice
R. says the station has
asked an intersessional vote
the girls school, I did make
mistake of saying 200 instead
300 £. But I doubt if that
ll be sufficient. I must
lans & estimates about

which Mr. R. speaks will com
in due course. I take it n
more will be necessary.

I fear that a thousand l
would be none too much f
a Chapel. And the people are
in a condition to give much.
the firman could be obtain
it would be money well i
vested, more so if the Russia
would come in. It is our
earnest desire that some
may be done to give that wo
an impetus. I think a ne
chapel would be a great help

The Man. Assoc. hold a m
ing. I think all the men a
impressed with the need o
There is rumor that Mr. Bla
is to take a vacation whic
may favor the succes
of the effort.

will note in Mr. Richardson's
that he mentions the
ney Ghazaros retained
city of Erzroom by order of
ls. This is a case of oppression
rdship. It is an outrage &
eat pity that nothing can
one. The question of his salary
s up. He has been a preacher
years & has no means of support.
has less now. What can be
for him?

I trust you will excuse this
ly note

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Rev. W. N. Chambers.

Boonton, Feb. 12, 1892.

Rec'd Feb. 13.

Rev. Wm. N. Chambers

65

Sherburne N.Y.
Feb 27. 1892.

r. Judson Smith   Rec'd Mch. 2
Boston

Dear Dr. Smith,

Your favor of Feb 24. has
t reached me here. I met
Amerkhaniants in Tiflis about
e years ago & have heard much
ut him. He was doing a good
k as agent of the B & F. Bib. Soc.
, & did do a good deal in translation.
worked with the Russian missionaries
anslating the Bible into Azerbijan
kish. Mr. Labaree knows him
sonally much better than I
He is, I think, a devoted Xn
n — of very considerable ability.
doubt however if there is a place

suitable for him in the E. T. M.
formerly he was very much dis
contented with missionary pol
& work in Turkey, & I fear he was
not well able to work in harmony
though his late experiences ma
have softened him greatly in th
respect. He was active, whe
at Tiflis, in his endeavours to
& persuade the people (Armenians)
to enroll themselves as Lutheran
The people of Shushi, like our
city, held out & those of other
places now under Lutheran
dominance would be glad to
rid of it. However all the p
there held him in great respect &
esteem. (I wonder why he do
does not return to Tiflis as
agent of the B & F. B. Soc!) I sh
add however that he did tha
as a political measure that the

ts. might have legal standing,
ther than because he prefered
theranism to Congregationalism.
thought the people would have
much liberty in the one as in
other. I would judge therefore
he is not a Lutheran partesan.
other thing that might cause
ficulty is that he has been ac-
stomed to a much larger salary
pastors receive in Turkey. I
he would not be content with
position of pastor & the salary
tched to it.

f I were sure of these two points
were willing to become a pastor
urkey I would gladly recommend
to the Ezroom church. This
ld be a good arrangement,
r things being satisfactory, because
deeply interested in the Armenians
Caucasus. However I have

little hope that he would be will
to take that position. His ambi
is (or was) to become a teacher
leader. And I doubt if any of th
the colleges in Turkey would engage
him mainly because of his attitu has
towards mission policy & work
when he was in C'ple. which feeling a
he had to some extent when I di
saw him. The fact is I fear he
knows too many languages to
ensure his highest usefulness.
He might do good service in Robert
In writing Dr. Stuckenberg you
might enquire whether Mr. Amerkh
would be willing to become a pastor a
a salary of about $275.00 a year & whether
would be willing to work in harmony with
the constitutions of the Prot. Churches a
Turkey. I would be glad if you
would express ~~through~~ D
Stuckenberg my sympathy f

Auerkhaniants because
the hardships & exile to which
has been subjected.

I presume I may as
l say here that ~~I~~ we are
ding in mind the early part of
ne as the time for sailing.
have received a negative from
ss Brooks. Will we have
turn without reinforcement?
t will that school do?

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

return to N.Y. in a few days.
address will be there as usual.

little hope that he would be [illegible]
to take that position. His [illegible]
(or was) [illegible] a few [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] $1700 a year [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] I would be glad [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] any sympathy

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

MISSIONARY LITERATURE:
LEAFLETS, MAPS, CONCERT EXERCISES, COLLECTION ENVELOPES, REPORTS, &c., CONSTANTLY ON HAND. SUPPLIED ON REQUEST.

REV. C. H. DANIELS, DISTRICT SECRETARY,
No. 121 BIBLE HOUSE,
NEW YORK. 3/8/92

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston
Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith,

As I mentioned in my last
tter we plan for sailing early in June.
s the Steamers are being filled
is time to think of tickets. If there
ppears no reason ~~why~~ for delay would
ou kindly authorize Messrs Ward
Daniels to negotiate passage.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers

.S. Possibly my going needs
authorization.
W. N. C.

New York, March 8, 1872.

Rec'd March 10.

97 East 116th Str.
N.Y. March 18/92.

v Judson Smith D.D.
Boston.

ear Dr Smith,

In making arrangements for
r journey & plans for the delays,
question comes to my mind of part
to expense. I know the rule is
t expenses are paid for the most
ect or least expensive route con-
stent with health & comfort. Now
xpect to go by as cheap a route
any, but I plan to stop by
way - a week or ten days in Ireland
a few days at one or two other
ces by the way on the continent

New York, March 18, 1892.

Besides we will likely be a mont
at Constantinople or Bardizag. W
do not wish to get to Erzroom till nea
the close of ~~[illegible]~~ the hot season
as we can't get there before it com
mences. These extra stops are
not properly trav. expenses. Now
my question is this. If we remain
in Am. our allowance would cov
time, or if we went directly t
Erzroom our allowance there would
begin. In order to help us bear th
expense of that *extra time* migh
there not be some dispensatio
for us allowing us expense
on the basis of our allowance
that we would have were we of
the journey. For instance

make my idea plain - we will
Ireland say, 10 days that should
properly be put to traveling expense.
allowance here is at the rate
3.30+, a day. Might we not be
lowed that much for ~~the~~ each days
are off travel i.e. if we find
are not able to make arrangements
in some other way. I would be
greatly obliged or relieved to have such arrangement made.
We have engaged passage for
June 11th.

I understand you are to
visit Central Turkey. I trust you
will have a successful trip.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Rev. W. N. Chambers

New York, Mch. 18-92.

Filed Mch. 25

Rev. W. N. Chambers S

68

331 South 16th Str.
Philadelphia 3/25/92.

Rec'd Mch. 28

Judson Smith D.D.
Boston.

ar Dr. Smith,

our favor of the 23rd
t hand. I will be
y glad to comply with the
gestion in it & as soon
I get the journey definitely
anned make out an
timate of the number of
ys we will likely be
perly off journey on
r way to ~~Constantinople~~ Erzroom.
r which number of days
I understand Mr Ward's
position, an allowance

be made in advance
the journey on the bas
of our allowance her
Such an arrangement wo
be very satisfactory to me.
In rereading your letter
I notice you say "now". I
I have gone over the tim
& our plan would be to
spend a couple of weeks in
Ireland - say 12 days. We
would then go with as littl
delay as possible to C'ple
spending 3 or 4 days in
London for making som
purchases. I presume su
time in London is usuall
counted as traveling time
Our stay in Constantinop
would be dependent som
what on circumstances
but I judge we would b

& very probably four
e at least three weeks
longer
not delayed by parties
ing inland desiring
Miss Kimball hopes to reach us in Cple.
r company. So that
t 12 days in Ireland
nd the 25 in Cple would
ly cover our time "off"
urney — in all about
7 days. I would not care
et to Erzroom much before
~~close~~ last part of August
ce the longer delay in Cple.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Rev. W. N. Chambers 69
Recd Mar 28 '92
Ans. do,

331 South 16th Str.
Philadelphia 2/26/92.

ev. Dr. Creggan
Boston,

ear Dr. Creggan

As I said to you the
st time I saw you I
ould like to get ac-
uainted with some of the
ew England churches. I
m at liberty now and
ill be glad to fill appointments
r missionary addresses.
y wife & family are here
Philadelphia, but there
e no churches here to
isit. I could come

any day after Tuesday ne
the 29th & I would be qui
willing to fill week day
pointments in order to se
as many churches as possi
I could be with you throu
the 17th of April & quite po
through the 24th. I was ve
anxious to go out to Ill. bu
the trip would cost me to
much i.e. more than I ca
afford.

If it is not too much
trouble for you I would b
glad if you would addre
your reply here & also a
copy of it to care of Mr Dani
in New York. I go up to N.Y. o
Monday & may remain over a
& would be glad to get your
answer as soon as possi
In fact if you could telep

e at N.Y. on Tuesday I
uld be glad so that I
ight make my plans at
nce.

I ought to say we sail
une 11.

Hoping to hear from you
your earliest convenience

Yours very truly
W. H. Chambers.

s time. I am free to confess
t I am *much* *disappointed*.
ave been in this district
r over four months, and
vas very anxious to visit
me others. The time is past
w & I remain in Philadelphia
the present & make plans
r myself.

Yours very truly
W. U. Chambers.

Rev. W. N. Chamb
Rec. Apr. 1 '9

331 South 16th St.
Philadelphia. 3/31/

Rev. E. K. Alden. D.D.
Boston,

My dear Dr. Alden,

I received your favor in New York where I had gone to attend a meeting. I hoped also to go on to Boston from there. I think I distinctly stated in my letter to Dr Creggan that I could spen about three weeks in that vicinit & that I was anxious to get acquainted with some of the churches there. I had alread spoken to Dr Creggan about visiting his district about

Rev. W. N. Chambers 5 71

331 South 16th St.
Philadelphia 4/19/92

Rev. Judson Smith D.D. Rec'd, April 23.
Boston

Dear Dr Smith

You spoke the ther day of the possibility of a farewell meeting toward the close of the month. y plans have matured a little more since seeing you. I have ositive engagements in Toronto anada for May 8th & 15th. I ttend the meeting of the O.C.&D. ssoc. in Central N.Y. near Utica on ay 3 & 4th & I may possibly spend unday May 1st in Sherburne N.Y. o that it would be impossible or me to be in Boston till after y return from Canada about e 20th. At that time it might quite convenient for Mrs Chambers

the in Boston, if you would thin
it worth while for us to be presn
at such a meeting. I am gla
to say that Mrs. Chambers has improv
& she is now under the Dr's care f
a slight treatment & we hope this
will establish the good results al
ready gained. By the way, if I
can make a few appointments
while in Canada would it be le-
gitimate to ask for the expen
incurred in meeting them? I
speak in the Congregational Church
Toronto on the 15th May.

I forward "The Press"
of this city - of todays issue. It con
tains an editorial on Turkish
missions.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Rev. Wm. N. Chambers

Morristown. May 28. '92.

Rec'd May 31

ev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Smith,

I understand the max mit of app'rs. for '93 has been ported to the mission. The question rises in my mind as to my salary by room. Will the limit be increased as to include that, or will it be forced into the present mit? Will the 200 T.L. for the rchase of the bit of property between school & chapel be included in that mit? If these are so, what will e work on? I notice the falling in the income from all sources

& I'm sure you all must feel rat
non-plussed. It is not a pleasi
prospect to return to the field o
the possibility of reduced appropr
ations. Not only so, but evident
we return with no prospect of
recruits for woman's work. Whe
have those two ladies from Cana
that were mentioned a coupl
of months ago gone to? Are w
not going to get some one
. What is the address of the agent
you usually refer missionar
to in London? Is it Mr. Kin
of High Holborn.?

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Bardizag. Aug 5. 1892.

Rev Judson Smith D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr Smith,

On arrival here July 20th I found your letter to my brother about Miss Kimball & party. We had in mind arrangements to have her party join us, as I had seen her & spoken about it in N. York. But we hoped she would reach here by the 20th at the latest. We would like to leave for Erzroom by that time. I judge from your letter she will not arrive before the 26th & she will want a few days in Cple, so that I fear the earliest possible for us to leave here will be Sept 1st. Add to that the fact that - as we hear - quarrantine is being imposed on all arrivals from Europe. 10 days on steamers & 5 days by R.R. there is the possibility that we will not get away even the first week of Sept. This will make us late for winter preparations in Erzroom. Besides I counted on 37 days delay. This will add to that greatly. I presume I will just add the extra expense to traveling expense.

However we are here waiting & trust she will not be delayed longer than the time specified.

We had a fairly comfortable journey. The children stood it very well. Mrs. Chambers endured it much better than I dared to hope. I had hoped to get over the mountains easily with the children. But Sept. is often a very good month.

We found my Bro. & family here well. Also Miss Powers. Our little girl - Kate - has evidently been affected by the very hot weather we had for a few days & is now suffering somewhat with bowel trouble. She ran down a good deal the last three or four days. We hope she will soon pick up again. The ~~days~~ visit here ha~~ve~~ been very pleasant & restful.

Speaking of Bardezag leads me to give one or two observations about the work here. It is not for me to say much, but at a venture I give my opinion.

The work seems to be in a promising condition. It seems odd to us of Erzroom that a missionary could ~~t~~ be able to ~~visit~~ reach the farthest outstation in a day. It has always seemed to me a tremendous expenditure of time & energy to have to ~~have~~ spend half the time of a tour in the saddle. Our farthest outstation in Erzroom Province is over a weeks journey. To spend a week amongst the brethren in that place we have to travel two weeks.

For Erzroom province Erzroom city is the best possible center, even though the outstations are far away. This thought leads me to remark on the central position of Bardzag in this station field, or possibly I should say non-central position. When so much time is expended for a little work as here in the Orient, every means ought to be used to conserve it. As compared with Nicomedia this place is a most inaccessible place. In this fine weather we found it hard to reach. A tiresome wait of an hour in Nicomedia for the row boat to get ready, an hour across the bay & we got slightly sprinkled as the wind & waves were rather high - an hour from the landing to the village, either on pack saddles or in rough waggons over a very rough road. In spring & fall, or when the road is muddy this last must be almost impassible. Most of the outstations must be reached through Nicomedia. To reach that point at the quickest two hours are necessary - often half a day & sometimes it is with the greatest difficulty & considerable exposure, & sometimes it is impossible. With the gentleman here & the lady missionary at Adabazar I would imagine it very uncertain arranging times to meet & tour together. Nicomedia is in quick & certain communication with communication with the majority of the outstations. The field needs touring. It seems to me Nicomedia is the proper center for that work.

With that as a center the missionary could plan his touring & at the same time make more exact arrangements as to the time necessary to be given to the school. As far as I am able to judge Nicomedia is the proper place for the school also.

Supplies have to be procured at Nicomedia or C'ple. Commission & freight have to be paid on them from N. adding that much at least to the expense. The self-help dep't. procures its lumber fr. N. paying the freight &c. on it to this place. It has to send back the manufactured article paying a higher freight on it because of its greater bulkiness in order to find a market. Thus ~~making~~ reducing greatly the profits. ~~Readily~~ Bread, meat & fruit are dearer here than there.

This place has no telegraph, and the postal arrangements are the most primitive & uncertain.

The missionary here is a member of the C'ple station. It is almost wholly impracticable. Three days are needed for the trip from here – requiring two nights to be spent in C'ple, which is not always convenient. From Nicomedia – with the present arrangement of trains - the trip could be made in one day, leaving N. in the morning & returning in the evening. The present arrangement would in my estimation be entirely unsatisfactory. The member here ought to be within attending distance of station meetings.

The only objection of any importance to removal to Nicomedia would be the expense of the transfer of the plant. That would necessarily be considerable. But the work cannot always be measured in dollars & cents. The transfer once accomplished the conditions of work would be vastly improved. I do not think the health question need be considered at all. Nicomedia would afford a healthy spot for residence & school.

The other day my bro. wished to present the diplomas of teachers & program of the school to the Muarif (School Censor) for his inspection & he spent a day to do what otherwise would have taken an hour. Nicomedia ~~th~~ is the seat of Govt. & the necessary relations between the missionary & his work & government officials can be better sustained & more easily made friendly there than here.

It seems to me that the best interests of the work all point to Nicomedia as the place that should be occupied as the center of work in this field. In all this I have said nothing of the comfort & convenience of the missionary and family. They would be *very greatly* increased and improved by the change.

The weather has been rather variable. For two or three days it was excessively hot. Evidently it effected our little girl. I presume she had not gotten thoroughly rested after the journey. She has been suffering somewhat from bowel trouble. Today she seemed much better. We hope she will be all right again in a few days.

You have undoubtedly heard of the sorrow of the Richardsons — the loss on the way to An. Meet. of their little one. She died at Baibook.

I have not got into communication with Miss Millinger yet. I hope the question will come up at An. Meet. at Hpt. Van is now *fully* supplied. What about Erzroom?

With kindest regards
Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Bardezag, Aug. 5, 1892.
Filed Sep. 7
To be Ans'd

Rev. W. N. Chambers.

Broosa Aug. 18. 1892.
~~Rec'd~~ filed Sep. 8.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Smith,

Some time ago I received your letter ~~in~~ which you speak of Miss Millinger as a possible supply for Erzroom. I have made a few enquiries. I have also just heard from the An. Mtg. at Hpt. The meeting evidently did not favor the transfer. I think it would be unwise to make the transfer.

But the refusal to accept that offer does not mean by any means that we are not in need. Van is supplied. What is the secret of Erzroom's difficulty? I will feel the work there to be very seriously handicapped until the demand for lady missionaries is supplied.

We are spending a few days (of our delay) here - Broosa. We return next week to C'ple. there to await Miss Kimball's party. By the way, I hear that Harpoot invites Mr. Mccallum to take Mr. Barton's place. I would only say here that such a transfer cannot be entertained. Erzroom is sadly off for workers. We have *no* lady missionaries. There is *no* *pastor* in Erzroom. The preacher at Erzingan has left. The schools need special supervision

We simply must not spare
Mr. Macallum. The Theo. Sem.
might be transferred to Erzroom.
I think this might be done w
great propriety & benefit to
Erzroom work & no harm to
Harpoot work.

All well

Yours truly

W. N. Chambers

Bible House
Constantinople. Sept. 5'92

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith,

We are still here & I fear will be detained longer. Miss Kimball is still striving for the obtaining of permission to practice. She may not get her answer this week. Besides that we may be delayed by quarrantine. There quarrantine about 30 miles out from Trebizond on the Erzroom road. We think it not prudent to run the risk of it. Kate - our little girl has been troubled all the

the time since our arrival in Bardezag & since with bowel complaint. By keeping her on careful diet we have been able to avoid a bad condition. But her bowels are in a very tender state & I would not like to run the risk of subjecting her to quarrantine. The great desideratum for resisting the cholera is a perfect condition of the bowels. Besides that such a large party subjected to the discomforts & dangers of a Turkish Lazaretto might be disasterous. So we may be delayed here some time yet. We trust it will not be long. We had planned to greatly hoped to be in Erzroom by this time. The condition of health in the Trebizond province is reported good. No case of cholera has appeared in the city, or in the province outside of Platina the sea coast quarantine. As the cool weather is near we hope the road may open soon.

In the Erzroom province there is even more danger. At Hassan Kaleh - 20 miles east of Erzroom a case occurred. He was a traveler fr. Russia however. The inspection on the Russian & Persian borders is very strict.

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

Rev. W. N. Chambers.

Constantinople Sept. 5, 92.

Rec'd Sept. 20.

Rev. W. N. Chambers

Constantinople. Sept 24. '92.

Filed Oct. 11

ev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston Mass.

My dear Dr Smith

With all our efforts to reach rzroom the close of August we have not been able to do so. We are e still & may be for a couple of eeks. We were delayed at first y the later arrival of the Van party han we had hoped & also because te E.T.M. An. Mtg was late and our ansport was delayed. Then quarantine ame in & the prospect was that it ould soon be raised & by a little further lay we might avoid it.. We were all e more led to this decision because r little girl, Kate, was suffering om bowel trouble. It did not pass way - she has been troubled with it er since we reached here in July. t came on her rather seriously in Bardizag. She is now under treatment by Dr. Matteosian. He has pronounced it catarrh of the bowels & dyspepsia. He gave his decided opinion that we should not run the risk of quarantine with her. She is now on a purely milk diet & is improving. This condition of bowel would make her very liable to the cholera. So we have been delayed very much to our regret. It is exceedingly irksome to be delayed this way. There is no steamer we can take till Oct 5th. We then plan to go on to Trebizond & then go on to Erzroom with the first opportunity after our quarantine is ov There are very few steamers running to Trebizond now. There is a steamer going on Monday. The Van party propose to go on on that. We are sorry that the party is to be divided. But they have a long journey before them, & Dr. Raynolds is coming on for them. He is at Erzroom.

Now all this delay has, or will em-
barrass our finances. The vote of
P. Com. of March 1st last has just
ome to my notice. I will have to
sk for a dispensation of some kind
ht helps me out. We can not reach
groom now before ~~Sept~~ Nov. 1st if
e do them. This allows us only
two mos. sal. on this year. We
ad planned our affairs so that
had we been able to carry them out
e would have been all right in
this respect, for instead of only 2.
mos. sal. we would have had 4.
his would have made a very great
ifference to us indeed. We
cannot possibly put in the stores
necessary for the year on the sal.
hat will come to us. For instance
e will have to expend 2 mos. salary
or *fuel alone*. This has to be put in
t once, for if it is not it cannot be
ound in the winter & if it is it is
wice the price. But besides this

many other stores have to be laid in. This with our regular living expenses will involve us heavily & I fear it will take us a long time to get our a/c. relieved. We hoped to be master of the a/c. & it is rather discouraging to find ourselves so heavily involved at the very beginning. So we are under the necessity of asking for permissi to draw two & possibly 3 mos. salary in advance on the new year. If you can grant us this favor I would be much obliged if you would als instruct Mr. Reid to that effect. It should be remembered also that while here delayed in this way we have many items of expense that probably should not be charged to traveling expenses & yet we have no fund from which to meet them except the salary we may have after we reach Erzroom & which is already expended for stores the

I greatly regret this delay for it eps us from our work. I hear lso that there is some trouble in yroom. It has been impossible secure a pastor. Then I understand that the mission passed a esolution to the effect that the issionaries should not assume pastoral oversight of the church. have no report of the meeting other han this reference & a remark a note fr. Mr. Richardson that consequence there was a "deadlock". the absence of any fuller information do not know the reasons for the assage of such a resolution. However can't help but feel that it is a ost unfortunate thing. I can't e that any reasons would warrant uch a resolution. Any trouble, in y opinion, could be adjusted better ithout it, & its existence would only ause greater embarrassment.

My own feeling about such a condition of things - where the church is wit out a pastor - missionary oversight is highly desirable - not to say necess Not that a missionary should give all his time to pastoral work to the injur of other work. But a judicious super vision of it, both in the pulpit & pastoral work would be the proper thing, more particularly in such an important center as Erzroom. The strength of the work there effects greatly the work all the outstations.

It has seemed as if, if I could be of service, the present would be the time to help out in this trouble. I have eve entertained the thought of having my family here for the winter & go on at once. But after due consideration that plan did not commend itself to me.

Another season has passed and no lady missionary is forthcoming for Erzroom. What is to be the outcome of this? Can

that a special plea be made at the
oming An. Mtg. at Chicago — ?
We pray that that meeting may
e more than a repitition of the
ittsfield meeting.

It is reported that one case
cholera occurred in Erzroom.
ver a hundred cases ending fatally
the plain east of the city - Passin.
few cases in Trebizond. The quarantine
at Hampsey Keuy - up Zigana Mt.
ween 25 & 30 miles fr. Trebizond on
the Erzroom road - time of quarantine
days.

With kindest regards
Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom. Oct 24. 1892.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Smith,

I am glad to be able to report that we reached Erzroom safely last Wednesday (Oct. 19). We were favoured in that quarantine was raised on this side of Trebizond a couple of hours after we reached the quarantine station. It so appeared to the people (200 of them) detained in the station, that they hailed us as their deliverers. I am glad to say that Kate improved under Dr. Matteosian's treatment & the diet of milk, so that she is in fairly good condition now. We continue the milk diet till cholera passes from the city. We found cholera about 30 miles out from Erzroom. It is ravaging some what many of the villages. It is epidemic in the city here, there are between 25 & 35 deaths a day. But it is already loosing its violence. We picked up the ladies for Van at Trebizond & came this far together. They propose to go on this week & pass a 10 days quarantine near Van.

I find the community — the city here — in a better state than I feared. The strain has been relieved somewhat during the last few weeks, & I trust it will pass very soon. This cholera ~~schoo~~ scourge & quarantine & a poor harvest have prostrated everything. It is strange under what distressing conditions people may exist.

The Richardsons passed us on the Black Sea. So we did not see them at all. Mrs. Richardson is very poorly & the child is in bad health.

I find the post must go.

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] for the past [illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] will be one

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] may be in the

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] the back [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] from a [illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible]

Erzroom, Oct. 24 - 1892
Rec'd Nov. 23

Erzroom Nov 11. 1892.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston.

My dear Dr Smith,

To day we got reports of the success of the meeting at Chicago. We rejoice that it was a good meeting & hope the current year will be one of greatly increased interest.

I wish I had some notes of cheer to pen from here. "Rejoice in the Lord" is a thought we need ever to keep in mind. That may be in the sorest distress as well as in the greatest comfort & joy. The deaths from cholera have been between 2500 & 3000 since the 18 or 20 of Sept. It has lost its virulence however, i.e. the disease has, & there have been very few new cases the last two or three days. It is still bad in the villages. Added to this distress is the distress arising from a failure of the harvest. Throughout this district the farmers scarcely reaped the seed sown, in fact it is declared that only about a quarter or a third of the seed sown was realized from the harvest. The consequence is that ~~th~~ a large proportion of the people will suffer greatly from hunger & they will be ripe for the cholera scourge in the spring. All traffic is at a standstill, the roads are closed prices are two & three times the normal, there is no money - in fact all these things together make the condition most distressing. I keenly dread visiting the districts because of the amount of cruel distress which one is unable to relieve. It is to be hoped the Govt. will take some means to help the people to secure a harvest next year. This fall was so dry that there was little or no fall sewing which is a most serious thing, for the farmers will not be able to sow the available fields in the spring.

We are all well so far. Our little girl is thriving on milk. We venture on very little else for her. We are however quite anxious about the Richardsons. They went on to C'ple. as you know. We were unable to send either horses or men to serve them on the return. There were 15 days quarantine & we felt we could not ask men to leave their families in the midst of cholera & spend 15 days in quarantine in the cholera infected district. Then the quarantine was removed, but all travel stopped, so that no one can go from here to Trebizond. There is cholera all along the road. Mrs Richardson & their child are both in ill health. I assure you a load of anxiety will be lifted from us if they reach this place in safety. Dr. Raynolds telegraphed them last week as follows; "Professionally I advise delay." I fear they did not get that before they left C'ple. I do wish they could have remained in C'ple. We are trying to obtain a permit to go & meet them. But we are not sure we can do so. We trust the Lord will preserve them by the way.

I am glad to be able to say that I think the trouble here in the church is passed. The matter was largely a matter of misunderstanding. The people heartily recognize the principles supposed to be in dispute. There were other things that complicated the relations with the missionaries. But I trust we may be able to work together in harmony. Mr. Macallum has gotten a good use of the language and has been doing a good deal of preaching. I like his ideas of work & I think we can work very harmoniously & pleasantly together. Harpoot has asked for his help over there. But for the good of this work he should not go. Erzroom cannot spare him.

Mr. Barnum writes to Mr. Mc. "If you can come at once it will give me more opportunity of touring." That remark has led me to wonder if touring is not necessary in Erzroom.

Monday - Nov. 14. The Governor gave a guard & Mr Macallum started out this morning to meet the Richardsons & bring them in. We hear that the Dr. in C'ple advised them not to return to Erzroom, but to go on to U.S. From all I can gather as to the state of health of both Mrs. R. & the child I think the advice was good & should have been heeded.

Yesterday there was a church meeting & the community is considering the advisibility of calling Mr. Tashjian the former pastor. It is so late now that we can't hope to get a pastor before spring.

I presume the Van party is purging a 10 days quarantine near Van. They must have reached the station some time on Saturday.

What hope of a lady teacher - I should say two lady missionaries for Erzroom.

With kindest regards
Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom Nov. 11-1892
Rec'd Dec. 23

Erzroom Dec. 13. 1892.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston.

My dear Dr Smith,

I have just returned from a tour to the district east of us going as far as the Alashgird Plain 75 or 80 miles distant. On the way I visited the outstations in the Passin district.

I found the state of the country to be most deplorable. Formerly we sometimes thought things bordered on anarchy. The present state is by far worse that it has been since I came to the country. Lawlessness & govt oppression apparently have joined hands & work in harmony. Suspicion on the part of the govt & consequent harsh measures were on the increase before the time of the Erzroom riot. The consequence was irritated discontent, one of the results of which was the riot. That deepened the suspicion & increased the hatred of the non-Christian pop. more particularly the ruling class. The Turk has before him the Balkan states & he is determined that Armenia will never follow their example.

So that, insofar as the Turk can be systematic, he is systematically reducing the Christian population to the most abject condition. The means he adopts are most effectual. 1. ~~a few~~ Two years ago the Sultan called all the leading Koords to C'ple. They were treated with high honor & went back to their homes as officers of cavalry. Five regiments were organized to be ready for service on call. They are called "Hamedieh" cavalry. The Sultan's treatment of them has given them a prestige that has made them, to a great extent, independent of the local governments. It has given them an offical position which protects them from the little opposition the Christians were formerly able to offer. They wear the Sultan's uniform. Who dare offer violence to that? As a consequence they have "carte-blanche" to rob & plunder which they do at will & without fear. This they do night & day. Very many horses, sheep, & cattle have been run off from the Christians & there is no redress. In some places the Christians say they are not sure that when they let their cattle out to water ~~they are not sure that~~ they will see them in the stable again. This will cripple entirely the farmers, as they will need oxen to do their Spring work. In fact the danger is that the remaining oxen will be driven off from the ploughs in the Spring.

that has already been done & if the present condition of affairs continue there will be no security for the open ploughing in the field. The fact is the Koordish Hamedeih is little short of the diabolical.

2. The govt. has been doing the same thing in another way. Numbers of Christians have been arrested and imprisoned. In one village eleven men were arrested. They were the leading men of the village, & men of influence. The charge is that they were implicated in the murder of a Koord whose body was found in the river when the ice broke up in the spring of the year of the war. That with other things of importance occurring during the war were declared dead issues after the war was over. So there was no right on the part of govt. to bring it up. But for supposed political offences the govt. wished a a pretext for imprisoning them. The dead issue concerning a dead robber Koord is revived & the 11 men have been in prison for two years. They were formerly comfortably well off. Now they are reduced to poverty & their families are in want. The man who shot the Koord is in Russia. The Russian govt. was asked to deliver him over. The court there heard his case & declared he was justified in his act & refused to give him up.

It is said that there are between ~~sixty~~ forty & fifty Armenians in prison on various charges & as many more in hiding. Other things might be said, but this is sufficient to give you an idea of the condition of the country. These things indicate the trend of of Turkish thought & feeling. That attitude of feeling is not ~~confined~~ only towards to the Armenians, but towards all Christians, missionaries included. During my residence here I have never had very much trouble about Zaptiehs—mounted escort. On this trip the guard in charge of the station in the most dangerous part of the road refused to give me a zaptieh without my first giving him a present of about 75 cts. This I refused to do & started through the most dangerous part of the Dele Baba pass without escort. Another official undertook to question the seal of the Governor on my travelling permit. These merely show the unsettled state of the country, & the confused state of governmental affairs, at the same time a strongly hostile feeling toward Christians. This shows the need of greater care on our part & the need of greater ~~decision~~ watchfulness & energy on the part of the U.S. Govt. in the matter of protection.

The cholera has been pretty well over our field & seemingly is starting out again for another visitation. In this city it is estimated that between 3 & 4000 deaths occurred. There seems to be none at the present time. Two from the Protestant community died. In the district east of us, the Passin, it was very bad. An estimate was being made when I was there & it was found that in about 120 villages over 4000 had died, which shows that between 8 & 10000 have died in the Passin plains. Farther east in the Alashgird district it has not been so bad, but is still there & since I returned I hear that it has broken out in two or three places a second time. One strange thing is that, as far as I was able to find out, it had not attacked the Koords. They rejoice in their immunity & declare it is the judgement of God on the Christians for their infidelity. In one town of 500 house, 400 of which were Moslems & 100 Christians, 20 moslems died & 45 Christians. In this city that discrepancy did not exist. The moslems were no more exempt from it than were the Christians. In the Passin plain a number of the Turkish villages suffered badly.

On account of this scourge the Armenians are more accessible. They are ready to confess that the Lord is punishing them for their sins. I had very attentive & respectful audiences in several villages which I visited. In one of our outstations, Zodousen the effect has been magical. In that place the work seemed to lag. It was discouraging so that we had thought of abandoning it at different times. A young man from that place passed through our schools. He had been in training as a teacher & preacher. When he got into work he did not prove satisfactory & he has been out of work for a couple of years. In that village nearly 50 persons died in about 3 weeks time. The people were greatly aroused. They began attending church every day i.e, the Gregorian Armenians attended their own church every day & when ever there were services in our chapel large numbers attended. That however did not seem to satisfy them & they made overtures to the young man referred to above & finally engaged him to preach in the Gregorian church every morning after the priest finished his service. This he has been doing for about 3 weeks. He is engaged to preach every day at noon during Lent. At each service he has an audience of about 60. Besides this the village has engaged him as teacher & he keeps school in our school house. We pray the Lord that this young man may be so guided that this opportunity may be used for the establishment of that village in the truth. ~~While~~ During my visit there for three days there were six meetings held & the audiences ranged from 150 to 220.

At Komatsor the other outstation in Passin there are very encouraging signs also. I had very good meetings there. The young man who is there for the winter has already 35 pupils in his school & very good audiences to preach to.

In this plain of Passin the harvest was a failure & there is a good deal of suffering & will be much more in the spring for want of food. In each village there are very few families who have wheat enough to eat & also to sow in the spring. A larger number have enough to subsist on, but no seed for spring. A large proportion have flour enough for periods varying from three weeks to three months. The outlook for the spring is dark. The Govt. has taken steps to loan to the villagers wheat or money - the wheat to be returned at the coming harvest, & the money is to be on interest at 6%. For either of which a mortgage on the fields of the farmer. This may be a partial relief. I fear much we will be overrun for appeals for assistance.

There are some other things I would like to speak of but I have not time, as I have been greatly interrupted & it is post time.

It is not necessary to call your attention to the first part of this letter as information for your own use & not for use in the Herald.

Trusting you are all well & that the new year begins with bright hope

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

P.S. Remember our needs in the matter of lady missionaries.

Erzroom, Dec. 13, 1892
Rec'd Jan. 18, 1893

Erzroom Jan. 2 93.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Smith,

I am sick, not in body, but in heart. This morning a man from a distant village came with a plea for bread - telling of hungry wife & children. Just this moment another has ~~just~~ gone out having come with the same plea. Apparently a famine is staring us in the face. The preacher ~~at~~ on the Passin plain writes on Christmas:- "Some friends came to wish us "merry Christmas", but some burst into tears & we wept with them. For Christ's sake, if you can move the hearts of benevolent people to help, do so." Many are now living very scantily indeed. Many subsist on what their neighbors give from day to day. Before spring opens, & ~~there will be~~ vegetation sustenance becomes salient ~~vegetation & live on~~, there will be great suffering amongst a large class of people. If next harvest in any way fails there will be a famine. I dislike to make appeals for help, but this distress lies so heavily on ones heart. If it were but a few very poor people we could endure. But where there are so many it is most distressing to feel that you can do nothing adequate to relieve the distress.

That is cause enough to make one sick. But it is not the only one we have. A note from Dr. Barnum of Harpoot this week announces the reduction in appropriations. 177 £. out of a little over 500 £. This makes the whole head sick & the whole heart faint. The work truly is the Lord's, but he has committed it to the church. The church is responsible for it & will he not require it at the hands of the church? Would to God I had not returned last year. I cannot violate my conscience by administering the funds provided in the way proposed. I cannot, in fact I refuse to be a party to the cutting down of salaries already too small, or dismissing men long in the work & to whom we are pledged - men who have given the best of their lives. This is not business morality. I know your distress, but this is awful.

The health bill of the circle is good with the exception of slight colds. A couple of weeks ago there were a couple of cases of cholera in the city. It seems to be hovering round ready for a spring attack.

Mr. Richardson returned from Khanoos, where he had a very good time amongst the people. Mr. Macallum is still in Erzingan where he seems to have a good deal to do. Our week of prayer passed with full meetings, but no special interest was manifested. The people seem to be in a good frame of mind & I think the trouble of last year has passed. They are trying hard to find a pastor. But with so pastors available & so many places vacant it is not an easy matter.

With very kindest regards
Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Filed March 4

Erzroom March. 11. 1893.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston.

My dear Dr. Smith,

I did not intend writing you today for I am very busy & have in hand preparations for tomorrow (Sunday). I hope to be soon relieved of pulpit work, as the new preacher should be here this month. I can not refrain from forwarding you the following translation of a letter just received from our Evangelist in the district across the hills east of us. It is as follows:—

"Honored Sir,

I have made a tour in Upper —— in company with Bro. ——. We went as far as the village of ——. In every place the people paid earnest attention to the word of life. The opposers were few indeed. In —— there are some who are considered Protestant by the rest of the village. The ideas of the people in general are greatly changed. The gospel leaven in its glorious power is working in the hearts of the people. It is very apparent. We are without doubt that the time is hastening when every man will cry aloud "Jehovah, He is God! Jehovah, He is God." Already there are many who repeat the cry. Let us pray that the Lord will move and enlighten every heart to truly worship the Eternal Glory & Truth.

~~As~~ I have already written, & I cannot keep silence because of the bitter & heart-stirring condition of the people under which they are consumed and afflicted. You already know there are many things to distress of which, at present, the most grevious is the lack of food. There are hundreds of families, who, besides having no ~~s~~ seed wheat, are today in need of daily bread. there is no work, there is no succor from any source. Oh, what a pitiable lot! Oh, what a miserable condition! Will not the hands of the benevolent & pitiful open towards these wretched people & lighten to some little extent their bitter trouble!

S— A—"

It is estimated that there are thousands of people dependent on charity for their daily bread. The distress is increasing & will increase till spring. If the harvest is abundant in its yield the distress will be partially relieved. But ~~the~~ so many of the peasants cannot get seed to sow & for that reason the crop must be short & the distress continue for another year. the distress is widespread & the thought of relieving it to any appreciable extent seems impossible. However a little assistance to help most extreme cases would be most welcome. If you think well to use this letter to that end & any result come from it, it will be putting bread into the mouths of hungry people. I hesitate to make any appeal, for the need is so great & the Earthquake in the Harpoot province seems to be terrible in its effects & assistance is needed there. May the Lord have mercy on this land.

We are all well

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

Rec'd April 10

Dr. Strong.

Erzroom March. 11. 93.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Congregational House
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith.

Your favor of Feb 4th came to hand a few days ago. We rejoice in the bit of hope you afford that possibly a couple of lady missionaries may come here this year. We hope & pray they may not fail. The need is pressing in very truth. Oh, how the work has *suffered* in this respect. Do send those ladies. It is a happy thing that one is an M.D. I trust she may be well up in her profession. The reduction in appropriations is giving us no little trouble & anxiety. It is most distressing. However we have other troubles beside this reduction. Our accounts are badly involved as you will see by the treasurers report of last week. He gives the reasons which I need not repeat at length. It is due to the great increased expense of living. There is one item to which I would call your attention especially.

that is the item of touring. You will see by the treasurers report that at the Semi-An. a/c. of Dec. 1st 1892. that a/c. was involved more than the entire estimate for 1893 i.e. more than £52. Mr. Richardson explains the matter. I would call your attention to the fact that we have now no funds for touring. Our private a/c.s. are so involved that the missionary making the tour cannot bear the expense of the tour which in the Erzroom field is heavy. There are now three of us here & to tour as we ought to 50£. is not half enough. We need 100£. at least & should have more. The Dec. a/c. was not made out till March 1st for reasons that Mr. Richardson has given you, so that we were not aware of the state of a/c.s. at the beginning of the year. Touring has been done in that interval so I suppose that ~~touring~~ a/c. is heavily involved. For this reason we are greatly hampered. The work must be reduced & we are prevented from touring. It is most distressing & we know not what to do. Can you not help us out in some way? We ~~are~~ cannot but plan on at least a partial restoration of estimates. In addition. What can we not have 50 or 100 £ for touring? This is putting on a pretty bold face to ask anything in the present state of finances of the Board. But the work is greatly hampered & our time is in a sense going to waste.

The poverty & consequent distress is increasing. The Govt. is attempting something. 5,000 £. are to be distributed to the people of the villages on the Erzroom plain to be repaid at the end of a year without interest. This is a little help. One is almost led to exclaim, "What are these amongst so many?"

But I am glad to say that I have one item of cheer. I think I wrote you that the Erzroom church had unanimously extended a call to ~~Baron~~ Mr Krekore Kevorkian formerly of Shamakhi Russia, later of Tabreez Persia. He has accepted the call & is expected this month. He is really a revivalist preacher rather than a pastor. But the people were virtually unanimous in their desire to have him & a revivalist has much that he can do in this city. At the request of the people I consented to continue to do what I could to assist in the government of the church. I felt that

that wouldn't take up very much time & it would have a good effect. I have been virtually acting as pastor since my return. Possibly I have not acted in accordance with the strict letter of the Mission resolution. But I think I have not transgressed any vital principle, but rather have emphasised the vital principle involved. I have done my best to put all responsibility just as far as possible on the people, emphasising that side of the question. I have tried to be a helper & adviser. For three successive Sundays I spoke at length on the grace of giving emphasising the thought that contributions should not be given as salary to the preacher but as sacrifices & gifts to the treasury of the temple of the Lord & as a vital part of service & worship. I tried also to explain that while the contributions should be from a willing heart, the giving of them was of necessity. It was therefore the duty of all to seek the grace that would make the heart willing. In which case the measure of contributions would be ~~the measure of~~ conditioned by the measure of Christ's love in the heart making it willing & joyfully discharge this duty. That would be the willingness, not of the natural or selfish heart, but the willingness of the renewed heart filled with the Spirit of God.

I feared from what I had previously heard that my talk might not put the people into good humor on the eve of writing their annual subscriptions. I am glad to say the people all took it kindly. I took advantage of the fact that the work of the church is going on harmoniously & that the people are greatly encouraged that they are to have a pastor in a short time. There was little hope that a subscription list securing £35 could be made out. In fact 32 £ was what was counted on as fairly sure. So you may realize our satisfaction and encouragement that when the subscription list was made up this week, we found the amount reached nearly 40 £ with a few subscriptions yet to be obtained, so that we feel quite sure that the completed list will ~~reach~~ foot up 40 £. if not a little over. It afforded me real pleasure to see the spirit manifested on the part of the people as I accompanied the Church Com^{tee} in making up the subscription list. There was a cordiality & interest manifested, that

that afforded us very considerable satisfaction indeed. There were but two or three exceptions to this. In these cases the subscriptions were not as large as they ought to have been, but what was given was given willingly. These two or three reductions were made because of the financial & business distress existing in the country; the universal complaint is that very little business being done, & that little affords little or no profit. Many are living on their capital. This being the condition of affairs the result of the canvass of the Committee of the Church was all the more encouraging. We earnestly hope & pray that the coming of Mr. Kevorkian may usher in a new & more progressive era in the church life of Erzroom.

The health record of the Station is about as usual. The winter is breaking up & the sanitary condition of the city leaves much to be desired. Cases of cholerine are occasionally reported.

Mrs Chambers unites with me in cordial salutations to yourself & Mrs Smith

Yours very truly W. N. Chambers.

Rec'd April 10

Erzroom May 2. 1893.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.
Boston Mass.

My dear Dr Smith,

Your favor of March 8th was awaiting me on my return from a visit to the Erzingan and Kemakh brethren where Mr Richardson & I had gone together. I had already heard of the partial restoration of appropriations for which, I assure you, we all were very thankful. May the the contributions be yet greatly increased.

We found the Erzingan work in very good shape. Mr. Macallum had spent New Year there & had admitted to church membership a number who had been under examination for some time. The preacher had worked very zealously & with good success. So that, notwithstand the lawsuit & divisions, the church had made progress spiritually. As a means leading to this result prayer-meetings, & church meetings for conference & advice had served an excellent purpose. There are two general prayer-meetings held each week which are well attended. Also once a week a meeting for church members in which the members speak freely to each other about their spiritual condition & needs & means used for progress. Often those under examination for church membership are called for conference. Besides these, there are two preaching services on Sunday, a young men's meeting, Sunday school, and also a special prayer meeting for women during the week. The congregations are good. On Sunday there were 150 persons present at the service. I remember when we thought 50 was a good congregation. The schools are doing good service. We took a girl from here, a graduate of our school, to take charge of the girl's school there. The teacher of the boy's school declared himself an evangelical about two years ago. He has developed well & now wishes to go to college & prepare himself for pastoral work. He is a most earnest young man & I hope we may be able to send him to Seminary this fall.

The people have shown a liberality that is very encouraging. We were hoping that the preacher, that has been working there for four or five years, would accept a call & become ordained as pastor. The people were anxious for that also. However he has had a desire to go to America. His wife died last year & he takes that as an indication that the Lord has opened the way for him to go. So he has resigned & would not be persuaded. We feel that he has made a very great mistake. His resigning at this time will injure the work & it will be very difficult to find a successor. His going to America may & may not do him any good. I trust however that if he does reach Am. he may get much good & be prepared for good work later in this land.

The people responded most heartily to an appeal for help to Malatia. and 8½ L.T. ($37.40) were sent to the sufferers from earthquake. We thought the people would only really be able to contribute less than half that sum.

Leaving Mr. Richardson in Erzingan I went on to visit the brethren in Packarich & Hazarik. I found that good work had been done there also. The church was in a very good state. These two places are united under one pastorate. The pastor has been there as preacher & pastor for 19 years. At first the opposition was very great, but now every door is open to him. His work has told greatly, But he sadly needs a change & vacation. So he plans to visit Cple. this summer. The teachers in both places have done good service this winter.

I enjoyed greatly meeting these brethren once again after three years absence. During that time two ~~&~~ leading men of the Evangelical community had passed from the scene in Packarich. One was

was cruelly murdered in the mountains a little over a year ago. The other was Hussein, the converted Turk, about whose conversion & persecution much has appeared in the Missionary Herald. After fiery persecution, including imprisonment & exile which he endured with rare Christian fortitude - always declaring he was ready to die for Christ's sake - he was registered as a Christian with the name Hovsep & for six years up to the time of his death he lived unmolested in his village. Before he took this bed he made a will disposing of all his property. He left bequests to a Turkish mosque & school, to the Gregorian Armenian school and to the Protestant chapel besides other bequests to individuals. His death was triumphant. His last words to his Pastor were "Ah, Sir, preach Jesus! Preach Jesus! Blessed Jesus." He was in his own home surrounded by his Mohammedan family & friends and after the Pastor left they gathered round his bed. Much anxiety was felt by the brethren that trouble would arise at his death & burial, & that even it might be declared by his relatives, that he had recanted at the last moment and died in the Mohammedan faith. But he turned a deaf ear to all entreaty. At midnight one of his relatives, a Moslem, came to the Pastor with the news that the man had taken his last breath, & that, as he had died a Christian, arrangements for the funeral should be made accordingly. The Pastor replied that it made no difference to the Protestants, & that if his friends wished they could bury him according to their own rites. "No," said the Moslem, "he died a Christian & you should conduct his funeral." Word was given to the authorities & that was confirmed. That order was carried out & the affair passed off with the greatest quiet, the Moslem friends of the deceased showing the greatest respect for him & those engaged in the service. ~~Wh~~ His life had been stormy and yet triumphant, his death was peaceful & triumphant. So passed away one of the most remarkable characters of this last decade of Gospel work in this Province. His wife, still a strong Moslem, used to say, "I am thankful to the Protestants. My husband used to blaspheme and beat me, now he treats me with gentleness and consideration. The lion indeed has become a lamb." The effect of it all has been very great.

On our return to Erzroom we found that Mr. Krekore Kevorkian whom the church had called as Pastor had arrived. We hope he will settle down and do good work in this church. He is more of a revival preacher than a pastor. His coming provides the church with a leader. The people are greatly rejoiced & our hopes are strong that he will do a good work. During our absence Mr. Macallum had charge of the pulpit work. He conducted meetings each day through Passion Week, as Mr. Richardson & I did in Ezgam with good results. The people enjoyed the meetings very much.

We are just now preparing for our Alliance meeting which is set for next Monday, the 8th. We hope for a good delegation. For three years no meeting was possible & we hope this will be a good one. These meetings have been productive of much good in the past & promise much for the future.

At the present time this Province is quiet. But the poverty & suffering is great & in a measure increasing. The outlook is not hopeful. Food for man & beast has been short in the hands of the peasants. As a consequence they have little seed & the oxen are not strong enough to do much work. The seed sown will be very little. Estimates range from 1/4 to 1/2 of the usual quantity of seed for this year. Unless something unforseen takes place to help the farmers to seed, the harvest will be very short at its best & this distress will continue another year. The great lack, however, is money. There is wheat in the province, but the holders cannot afford to give it away, as it represents a large part of their capital, & there is no confidence that they would get anything back if they ~~would~~ loaned it. The whole condition makes one's heart sick. To day one of our brethren, a merchant, threw a lot of barley on the market at 3 pias less than the selling price. This will have the effect of lowering the price a little, for the sake of the farmers."

So far there is no indication of cholera. Scarlet fever has been epedemic amongst the children. But that has passed. Our boy, Talcott, today developed symptoms of chicken pox with sore throat. We hope it will pass soon. We are planning to start for Bitlis to attend An. Mtg. in two weeks from today. I trust the boy will be so far recovered as to be able to start on the journey & that the roads will be open. I fear the delegations will be small from other stations.

What hope of lady missionary recruits for this fall?

Mrs Chambers joins in very kindest regards to yourself & Mrs Smith.

Yours sincerely

W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, May 2, 1893

Filed May 29

Erzroom May 13. 1893.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr Smith.

I forward both the original & a translation of a letter to you from the Erzroom Station Alliance (Cooperative Association) as to the matter of a lady teacher. The question needs not to be emphasized by me. You know the needs & the imperative necessity as well as I do. I hope you may be able to use this letter to good effect in the search for the desired ladies. Remember it is three we want, not one. This has been endorsed several times. Send us at least two at the very earliest moment. We talk of closing the school though our ladies do all they can. That would be almost suicidal. Bible work through the field is suffering sadly. Two ladies at least, one a Dr. if possible & at once.

Might you not have this copied sending copies to the different women's Boards & many of the branches. ~~Please~~ send out a special appeal by yourself & go with it

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers. (over)

P.S. Wednesday:—

Your favor Ap 22nd has just come to hand. We are about starting for Bitlis to attend An. Mtg. & so I have only a moment to add this P.S. You say Harpoot has written specifically for those two ladies about whom you wrote & you or the Com. is about to appoint them to Hpt. Allow me to say, as this letter is entirely about that question, that Erzroom has time & time again been assured that her wants in this respect would be first supplied & several ladies have been sent to other places since that assurance was given. I can only say this, that in this case I will emphatically refuse my consent to Mr. Macallum's going to Harpoot to help out in the Theo. Seminary. We looked favourably upon this proposition & we hoped that these ladies would come here. In this case we cannot spare Mr. Macallum. I doubt if we can in any case.

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers

Rec'd June 14

Translation

Erzroom May 13. 1893.

Rev. Dr. Smith
Boston

Dear Sir,

On the 8th of this month the pastors, licensed preachers, and delegates from the Evangelical communities of Erzroom Station met together with the Missionaries of the Station for the 9th time in the annual meeting of the Alliance (Cooperative association) to consider the progress of the work of the blessed Saviour in this land. Of the many questions presented for consideration none were more important than the question of work for women. The question of the elevation of women & her preparation for the service of the Lord was one ~~that~~ to which the meeting turned with both mind & heart. How great and precious has been the elevating influence of American female missionaries upon the women of our communities our hearts realize, but our pens are unable to declare. We pray that these blessed messengers of mercy & their benevolent senders may be abundantly rewarded in that day when everything will be revealed for the glory of our precious Saviour whom we continually worship.

It was a matter of deep regret to the

members of the Alliance that ~~for the last few years~~ Ezroom Station has been deprived of the blessed services of an American lady teacher. We come to plead the great necessity & to entreat most earnestly your good offices for the obtaining for this work an experienced american lady teacher to take charge of the government of the school as well as ~~to~~ a matronly oversight of the girls (boarders) in the school who come to this centre from the various districts to prepare for the work of spreading the Gospel of the Kingdom. We offer our united prayer, as of one voice, to God that your efforts may be crowned with success in this matter in the near future. We await the joyful realization of our long differed hope, and that only for the glory of our saviour & the good of the women of this land.

With Christian salutations

On behalf of the Ezroom Station Alliance,

Signed by Committee
W. H. Chambers (Chairman)
M. Hovevian (Secretary)
H. Aghajanian (Treasurer)

Rec'd June 14

Erzroom June 28. 93,

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston. Mass.

My dear Dr. Smith,

Your favor of May 26th came to hand yesterday. We all arrived home safely from An. Mtg — my wife & family & Mr. Richardson last week & I this week. I remained behind in Khanoos for a few days to visit the brethren there. Our journey was fairly comfortable & I think it did Mrs. Chambers good. She had lost flesh & had become more nervous since coming back, than she was when we left America. The children enjoyed the trip greatly in spite of the discomforts & hardness of it. The sadness of it was that our observations only confirmed what we had heard of the state of the country. Poverty is wide spread. The lawlessness & depredations of the Koords &c. are slowly & surely destroying all hope & life amongst the Christians. We rejoiced at the success of the efforts put forth in the Marsovan matter. Oh, would that the Western powers would turn attention to this terrible state of things. I confess I fear very much that the Christians will be forced through desperation, to reprisals which would mean a massacre. Up to the present, women have been comparatively free from outrage. But that security is gone. A Koord expressed the state of things when he said "we have hitherto plundered your cattle and sheep; but now, in addition, we will work our will with your wives & daughters." Our helper at Heranik is in great perplexity, fearing greatly for the safety of his family.

The An. Meeting at Bitlis was very enjoyable indeed in very many ways. The friends at Bitlis were kindness itself. It was a great uplift spiritually & socially. After such experiences, by way on the journey, & in the meeting with friends, one can appreciate more the pith of the remark, "Over the Alps lies Italy."

The great burden however was the question of estimates. Your embarrassing position at Boston was fully realized. You can only appropriate the amounts you have in hand. It is a good general principle to go on, not to go into debt. But oh, how cruelly disastrous it seems, to cut this work to its destruction. It blocks progress; it cuts off hope, it destroys confidence; it chills zeal; it discourage & turns aside the enquiring & weak from the search for truth — in short, its tendency is to have a stunning & paralising effect on the native brethren. I am glad to say they have appeared well under this trial. But on the other hand it ties the hands of the missionaries. How often the thought comes to me "would that I were where I was a year ago — in America". The increased number of missionaries decreases the amount available for general work. What a great relief it would be to my mind & heart & conscience if I could draw aside, & even by temporary absence or withdrawal relieve the distress. We have put two important outstations, several winter schools the boarding depts of both boys & girls schools here in the city & other very important items in contingent. I am reconciled in regard to the boarding depts. until lady missionaries are found to take charge. But I would *very gladly indeed give place* to have the other places supplied. But you know all this & your hearts are oppressed as ours are. I sent my resignation once because of this distress. It was not accepted. There seems to be less hope of its acceptance now than at that time. But if the Com. could be persuaded that the acceptance of the resignations of half a dozen of us missionaries would be a most effectual object lesson to the

Churches & a means to lead them to a truer realization of their duty in respect to this work, rest assured that I will gladly be one of that number. I am persuaded it would relieve the distressed condition of native agency. If such a thing were possible, i.e. that the Com. could be so persuaded, you could look upon this letter in the light of a resignation & act accordingly. I would be sorry to leave this work, & shrink from none of its dangers or trials, I have tried conscientiously to consecrate my life to the service of the Master to serve where He pleases. But under these present circumstances my conscience is at unrest & so far forth I cannot do my whole duty. And possibly I might be able to serve this work better in America than I am being here in Erzroom.

There are one or two items you will note in the minutes ~~to~~ about which I would like to say a word. The one is the resolution concerning the possible appointment to Harpoot of those two ladies about whom you speak. ~~At~~ At the previous An. Mtg. the Erzroom needs had been emphasised as has been the case for several years. Harpoot had made no application at that meeting, or any representation of its needs in this respect to this meeting. The mission thought that its action had been overlooked or ignored, & the need of Harpoot - not nearly so great as that at Erzroom - was being supplied first. We of Erzroom were glad to have our needs again emphasised, but we did not wish at all to urge the appointment of those ladies to Erzroom, simply we had no personal knowledge of them. You remember our previous experience. However the mission desired to assert its position.

You hold out a hope in your last letter, that there is a possibility of those laides yet coming here. If the one can get some sort of a permit at C'ple. she would have plenty of opportunity to practice here & I think it would be well. We would be glad to have her.

The Mtg. recommended the special grants to Erzroom in the items of personal grants to Mr. Richardson & Mr Macallum & for touring & which you have already kindly granted. It will be a great relief to my associates & to our touring fund.

The meeting of the alliance (Cooperative) just before we left for Bitlis, was, for the most part, very pleasant. We had only one delegate from the Russian part of the field. Another was expected but he was unable to get a passport. The representation from the outstations in Turkey was very good. The men entered with sore and heavy hearts, but, I must say, bravely into the work of reducing estimates. I think the opportunity for conference and spiritual counsel was very beneficial. One incident of the meeting was the induction of Mr. Krekore Kevorkian as stated preacher of this church. The chapel was full & the exercises were new & impressive, several of the delegates taking part. The charge to the people & charge to the preacher & giving the right hand of fellowship were new to many & all were listened to with great attention.

Rec'd July 17.

Mr. Macallum will have informed you of the birth of a baby boy in his family last week. Dr. Thom is still here. He leaves next week.

We are all usually well.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom July 19. 1893.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Congregational House
Boston

Dear Dr Smith.

There is a question of grave importance concerning our station about which I have as yet said nothing to you. I thought possibly the difficulties might right themselves, & until I was fairly sure of my ground I did not wish to express myself. I now feel it my duty to place the matter plainly before you.

The report of Dr. Thom concerning the health of Mrs Richardson brought the matter to a crisis. A copy of that report undoubtedly has been forwarded to you. You will note that the state of her health is said to be due to "~~troubles~~ trials" endured from "within & without" against which she had "battled bravely". It also recommends "congenial" surroundings & occupation for her. It is a sad sad fact that "trials" have been great & very burdensome to us *all*. This report fails to take into consideration the fact that Mr & Mrs Richardson, to say the very least, are just as responsible for the "trials" which she has had to bear from "within & ~~from~~ without" as the other members of the station. It seems to me the report reflects unduly on the other members of the station

As to congenial work & surroundings, I had already become absolutely convinced that that was an impossibility with the present association & that association was not only unadvisible, but positively wrong.

We asked Dr. Thom to conference. He recommended that the past be forgotten & that we start out with renewed determination to carry forward this work in union. That may be good advice. But it is impossible to close ones eyes to facts which stand out prominently & have been of far reaching import in the past, & promise to be in the future. Past experience cannot be forgotten, & it must inevitably condition judgement & future action. However we, after conference, determined to make "another trial", as far as possible ignoring the past.

It is but right you should know the circumstances, & I call your attention to two *facts*.

1. The association in Erzroom station has been sadly ~~marking~~ characterized by want of harmony.

Such a state not only affects those associated together so that it nullifies their good influence on each other, but it is destructive of hope and courage & unity in the work amongst the people. Where American Christians cannot work in love and harmony, how can they preach & insist on such amongst people who are newly learning those things? It so handicaps one as to prevent the putting forth of his best efforts & so far forth he becomes a zero, where he should count for all he is worth. It induces a wasting of ones life, which is only lived once. In my opinion the work & influence of Erzroom station has been very greatly injured by this lack of harmony in the station. It has a most deleterious effect on those before whom we should stand as preachers of the grace of God in Christ & sent as messengers from the American Churches & American Board. This disharmony cannot be confined to a corner.

2. This state of things has been induced because of the incompatibility of certain members one with another.

This incompatibility is more marked between Mr & Mrs Richardson and Mrs Chambers & myself. To such an extent is this true that I judged it would be positively wrong for such association to continue. Not only does it become a block to work, but becomes injurious to the health of all concerned. I think there is not the same incompatibility between Mr. & Mrs Macallum & Mr & Mrs Richardson they possibly may be able to get along more easily together. Between Mr & Mrs Macallum & ourselves relations are *most cordial*. I do not wish to go farther into particulars, I think it will be sufficient to say that after the most careful consideration of the question, looking at it from all sides, I came to the deliberate conclusion that I could not conscientiously continue in the present association. I was persuaded by my associates & Dr. Thom to make "another trial" on the understanding that just as soon as it appears that further association is undesirable separation would be recommended by all.

Now a word as to my personal feeling in the matter. I stated to the station that I was quite ready to give place. If Mr. Macallum & Mr. Richardson & their families could harmoniously associate together to the proper prosecution of this work I would gladly withdraw, & that I would do so at once. My conscience leads me to say & it am thoroughly convinced of it, that I can serve the general interests of Christ's kingdom better in America than under such conditions as this state of things entails. Where I cannot associate to the best interests of Christ's kingdom I do not wish to remain.

Let me say farther, that the relations between us & Mr & Mrs Richardson, although not so strained, were not as cordial as desirable before ~~our~~ visit to America. So that we returned with forbodings. This state is the sad fact now.

Possibly I am influenced in urging my own withdrawal on two grounds.

1. I already stand under the odium of having elbowed both Mr Parmelee & Mr. Cole out of the station. Mr Richardson has been told that the Chambers' would elbow them out. I feel this to be very unjust to me. I was ready and offered to withdraw at ~~that~~ three times. I do not think that any individual whatever, much less myself, has any right to stand in the way of the best interests of the work. My only hesitation in this matter is the thought that Mr M & Mr R. may not be able to work in harmony to the

best interest of this work. I earnestly hope they may be able to do so. As soon as that is evident I will insist on my withdrawal.

2. I have tried to keep out of mind in considering this matter the question of health. But health is an important item and sometimes very expensive. Leaving out of count the deliterious effect on health of uncongenial association, there is another side to be considered. You know Mrs Chambers' trouble is nervousness. I am sorry to say she has not retained what she gained under Dr Goodell's treatment. Dr. Goodell said that the high altitude of Erzroom (6500 ft) might possibly affect her unfavourably. Dr. Thom found the action of her heart weak - no organic affection - but she is ~~gr~~ considerably troubled with short breath & palpitation. He did not express a positive opinion, but thought the altitude might have much to do with it. He suggested our spending a winter in Erzingan which is 2500 ft lower than this place as an experiment to test the question. It cannot be denied that Mrs Chambers' health has been

considerably affected by the unfortunate circumstances of the past 9 months. But I am coming to feel that this climate and altitude are not the best suited to the health of one nervously constituted as Mrs Chambers is.

These considerations, other things being equal, would lead me to strongly urge the thought that we would be the ones to withdraw.

I very much regret to say that the time past since Dr. Thom's departure does not inspire me with great confidence in the future.

If others can do the work of the Lord effectively associated here, & I cannot, by all means let me give place. My desire is effective work for the progress of Christ's kingdom. It is not for me to say where. I prefer the foreign field, but I think I can serve on the home field also.

It is a sad work to me to write this letter. You should be in possession of the facts. If this state does not improve it should not continue, in fact it must not.

We are out at our usual camping ground in tents for the hot weather. It has done us much good. We judged there was not so much danger of life from the unsettled state of the country & our living in this lonely place, as there would be if we remained in the heat & filth of the city. Our children have improved much since coming here. Talcott was troubled much with malaria which has left him since getting into camp. The unsettled state of the country is getting worse. The Kurds are committing depredations within a few miles of us. By the way can not something be done for those men at Angora Thomigan &c. Apparently they have been sacrificed by Mr. Newberry & their case has had no defense - though innocent. Do all you can to get them pardoned. It is a diabolical sentence.

Filed Aug 10.

Apparently Dr. Strong got my letters & Mr. Richardson's mixed in the last Herald. He assigned my letter to Mr R.

With my kindest regards
Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom July 30. 93.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.,
Boston Mass.

My dear Dr Smith,

Your favor of July — about the Misses Cushman came to hand last evening. The question you ask is rather difficult to answer directly. It is difficult for us to give a call to them because of the lack of acquaintance. However we can give you our thoughts — as we developed them last evening in considering your letter.

1. There is an opening for a lady physician. A good practice & a good ~~wor~~ evangelical work could be developed together. It might not, probably would not, at the outset fully pay for itself. We would be very glad to have such a work developed, it would be a benefit I think in every way. But,

2. Our great need, looking to the work in hand, is for workers to devote themselves to educational & evangelistic work. Our first need, is educational i.e. a lady to take charge & work up the school. That would be a powerful center for evangelistic effort. The schools in the city - here could be made a great power for good. There is a great

field for Bible work, & that is our second great need. It is not secondary. My idea is that if we can't have both, the school should be supplied first. The fact is, that though the married ladies have done all they can, & that has been much, we have been losing golden opportunities in both these departments, & they can never be redeemed.

We would judge that Miss Dr. Cushman would want to make medicine her first work. I think she is right in that. But we doubt if that would supply our great needs at present. If we could have a lady to take charge of the school, we would judge that the Cushman Sisters would be most admirable for evangelistic & medical work & would be glad to welcome them for that.

It is but right to suggest that the obtaining a permit at Constantinople for practice ~~at Cons~~ in Turkey may be very difficult & possibly impossible. You might get full information on that fr. the brethren there. To practice without a permit of some kind might not be the most advisable thing.

Again the reduction in funds makes us hesitate to urge the coming of a physician, to make that her chief work. The increase of the missionary force decreases the amount of money available for general work, & certainly there is a great lack of funds to establish a medical work as it ought to be.

We regret exceedingly that we cannot say at once send the Miss Cushmans. But our burning need today is Educational & Evangelistic.

I trust I have made this clear. We would give this our judgement on the work & leave the decision to your friends to decide the question. If in consultation with the ladies you decide in favor of Erzroom we will be glad to welcome them to this work.

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

Rec'd Aug. 21

Erzroom Sept. 2. '93.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Smith,

I forward to you a report, or rather an appeal for the An. Mtg. of the Board. I hope it may reach you in time & be of use. We do not want in any way to embarrass the situation in any way. We want to present our distress & the needs of this work & the terrible injury accruing to it. We earnestly pray that God in his mercy & love may guide all & sustain this work. We are simply appalled to hear that contributions are dropping so low. Is it not time for some of us missionaries to withdraw? Possibly it is better to wait the result of the meeting.

With earnest sympathy & prayer
your companion in the common
distress

W. N. Chambers.

Rec'd Sep. 26.

Erzroom Sept. 2nd 1893.

To the Ann. Meeting of the A.B.C.F.M.
Worcester. Mass.

Dear Brethren:-

Fifty-four years ago the first station was established in territory now occupied by the mission to Eastern Turkey. The first missionary, the Rev. Mr. Jackson, took up his residence in Erzroom city in 1839. On the fiftieth anniversary Mr Jackson wrote:- "Your note calls to mind very vividly our first beginnings at Erzroom. The night was then dark indeed & opposition to missionaries and their work bitter. At that time we could walk only by faith and not in the least by sight. It seemed as impossible to penetrate with the light of gospel truth that dense mass of ignorance and prejudice and general depravity as to dig with our hands a tunnel through some of those mountains that surround the city. What were we to stem the current of evil? We could suppress the feeling of discouragement and discontent only by remembering that God is stronger than man & that we had gone there on the authority & command of Christ."

Since that time four other places have been occupied as central stations - Mardin - Harpoot - Bitlis & Van. These are centers of large territories and a prosperous gospel work. Over forty missionary families and about thirty single lady missionaries have laid their best on the altar of service to Christ in this land of Bible history. In the course of time a corps of native workers was organized, and the desolate land began to be filled with the voice of the Gospel messenger. The people of the old churches began to be aroused from the lethargic condition into which they had fallen. Many of those who were afar off began to draw nigh unto God, because they heard, every man in his own language wherein he was born, the wonderful works of God & the efficacy of the blood of the everlasting covenant.

The workers in this great enterprise, both foreign & native, joyfully saw many of their plans take definite shape, & their hearts were cheered with hopeful signs of progress. They saw small knots of, often violently persecuted, Gospel readers grow & develop into well organized churches. Doors of entrance were opened unto them. Schools were established. Bible & book distribution were vigorously pushed. Every effort was put forth to sow broadcast the seed that would spring up & grow to the revival & better establishment of the institutions of a pure evangelical Christianity that they might cast their blessed influences over the land for the glory of Christ.

The policy from the first was to effect reforms in the old churches, so evangelizing them that they in turn might become the evangelizing power to bring to a knowledge of Christ to other races of the country. The territory contains a population of over four millions - of various races & religions.

In the development of this work 175 different places have been occupied as outstations. Some of these have been passed over to other societies, some have become self supporting, while a few have been abandoned for more promising places. At the present time there are over 130 outstations in actual occupation. 40 Evangelical churches have been established which have had from the first a membership of over 3,000. The sabbath audiences of the mission field present an average of about 12,000. Over 160 schools for the education of both sexes are in operation in which instruction is imparted to nearly 8,000 pupils. And with the special thought of preparing an efficient native agency there have been established two theological seminaries - one at Harpoot and one at Mardin; a college at Harpoot, and boarding & high schools at each of the central stations. Through these instrumentalities in the midst of a population of over four millions there has been established an evangelical community of about 16,000. (The prot. pop. of Turkey-in-Asia is about 40,000).

From one point of view these figures show small returns for the expenditure of men & money incurred.

If they were the full measure of the work it might well be branded as a failure & abandoned. But the actual gains & far reaching effects of any work cannot be measured by the most complete statistics. Figures cannot measure moral effects. They can show the trend of the work and so forcast its outcome. True 16,000 out of 4,000,000 may, in one way, appear as insignificant as the cloud the size of a man's hand in an otherwise cloudless, & apparently brazen sky. But to the eye of faith, that can look into the future and behold the fulfilment of the eternal promises of Jehovah, it may & will portend, not merely showers, but torrents of blessings to water & revivify the dry & parched land and clothe it in the beauty & glory of the righteousness of God and the salvation of Jesus Christ. In lands where over all communities of every name & religion a ~~blighting~~ famine in things moral & spiritual has prevailed for centuries; where people must take their religion from the priestly class who become the custodians of the sacred books & controll their use; where liberty of conscience and individual rights have been, till lately, principles unknown, it is no small thing to have established even a small community enjoying the inalienable rights of liberty of conscience & freedom in the use of the sacred Scriptures in the language of the people, and the privilege of interpretation in accordance with the dictates of conscience none daring to say nay to the humblest individual. Not only so, but the causing of these principles to be virtually recognized by the old Christian communities, & the acknowledgement by all — Christian & non-Christian alike — of the higher standard of morality & the resultant higher moral life of those enjoying these rights may be declared a revolution in thought & to a great extent in practice effected by this Gospel work.

In a report presented at the late Annual meeting of the mission at Bitlis ~~two~~ points were brought prominently into notice. 1. That protestantism as a separate & distinct organization, enjoying civil and religious privileges on the same basis as other Christian communities, has been making little if any growth at all during the last few years in this land. 2. That as an enlightening, civilizing & spiritualizing power its growth has been steady, its benificent influence is daily increasing, & it will find its highest success in this its proper mission

Protestantism in this latter aspect is recognized as an element of power exerting a wide spread influence over the land. Fifty years of effort have been rounded out: It has secured a position of advantage which affords an outlook such as to inspire the firm hope that during the second half century of Gospel work, not only may the old churches be evangelized, but the Gospel may be made to overcome the opposition of all other communities & creeds in the land. It will thereby bring to full fruition the desires of those pioneers who so bravely entered to possess the land for Christ.

As we thus pause and cast our eyes back in retrospect there pass before our minds the great facts of small beginnings, of bitter persecutions, & of determined opposition; also of heroic struggle, of grand success, & of great & ever increasing influence giving promise of ultimate triumph. Our hearts are filled with gratitude & praise to Almighty God. Our souls are inspired with hope for the future, and courage to endure as seeing him who is invisible, who has led his people hitherto & promises to be with them to the end.

There is however another side, & as we turn and consider the conditions of work as they face us today we find our hearts weighted with a burden that seems greater than we can bear. It is doubtful if the mission has been called upon in any part of its history to endure greater trials or pass through a more critical period than those of today. The Lord has abundantly answered prayer. How are those answers to prayer being received? Engagements are being cancelled: Established work is being shaken to its very foundations. Assistance is being refused to enterprises, which need, & in all conscience should have it. Workers are being dismissed, Chapels & Schools are being closed. Open doors are being passed by. Golden opportunities are being lost, never to be found again. All this, not because of the opposition of enemies, but because of the lack of proper support on the part of friends.

Bearing in mind that the effort of the mission is, not primarily to sustain evangelical institutions amongst 16000 protestants, though that is a very important item, but through these to establish the Gospel amongst 4,000,000 people, the great mass of whom are sitting in darkness, it will be conceded that this work should, if healthy, be a growing work involving an increased expenditure of men & money.

Taking however the three departments of work, Evangelistic, Educational, & work for women, let us compare the estimates (including the contributions of the people as well as assistance rendered by the Board) for the years 1886 and 1894. For 1886 the estimate was $20,700 of which $7,300 was asked from the people & $13,400 from the Board. For 1894 the estimate is $29,375. Of this $12,932 is put on the people, which, let it be noted, is at the rate of 80 cts for every man, woman & child of the Protestant Community of the mission & almost doubles the contributions of 8 years ago. Of the balance $9,687 appear in the regular estimates of the mission as desired from the Board. This is $3,700 less than for 1886 - 8 years ago. It represents not the amount *necessary* for the work, but what *possibly may be available*. In addition to this & for work no less important a suplimentary contingent estimate of $6,756 is presented by the mission. Now these two ~~items~~ estimates - regular $9,687, & contingent $6,756 amounting to $16,443 do not include many items of importance in these three departments. They do not include any estimates for grants in aid to build chapels or schools or for the repair of the same. Much less do they provide for any new work whatever. The whole amount would but *poorly* sustain the work in hand. But out of this contingent estimate of $6,756 25 of the highest salaries ~~paid~~ in the mission could be ~~secured~~ paid, the highest salaries paid being $270.00. When it is remembered however that assistance is given to supplement what the people give, which without that assistance would be entirely inadequate to support the workers, it can be imagined what havoc the cutting of it out entails. The forcing of this work, therefore, into the measure

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of $9,687, the regular estimate, means simply disaster. It means the cutting off of some outstations entirely. In Evangelistic work it means the reduction, or entire cutting off ~~of~~ assistance to pastors, preachers, evangelists Bible readers, colporteurs &c, bringing great hardships to some, & the dismissing of others. In educational work it means a very great reduction in assistance to theological, college, & high school pupils thereby greatly retarding the exceedingly important work of recruiting the ranks of the already depleted native force. For example, the Theo. Seminary at Mardin is closed. the boarding departments of both boys & girls schools at Erzroom are closed; that is the work of training helpers is virtually closed in these two stations. Similar injury is accruing to the other stations also. ~~It also~~ Assistance for 150 such pupils ~~as~~ is included in this estimate. It also means the closing of some schools & the dismissal of teachers & the reduction of the teaching force of other schools to such an extent as to cripple them. But ones heart sickens at the sad catalogue. Other departments of work suffer in like manner. For instance the fund for missionary touring is so far reduced that less than half the ordinary work can be done.

Other things might be mentioned. But is this not sufficient. One brother expressed the situation when he said: "In making up our estimates we cut as far as we were able. Then we closed our eyes and slashed, for it made no difference where the stroke fell. Then we opened our eyes to see if we had done sufficient damage to bring the work within required bounds."

And all this in the presence of a partially revived old Church which has begun to look to Protestantism for light, for enterprise, & for progressive stability, In the presence also of Mohammedanism, fortified in the strength & fanaticism of a revived Moslemism apparently farther removed than ever from the Christian's God & ready to take advantage of every opportunity to oppose even to the death the spread of the Gospel of the Nazarene — the true prophet of God.

Brethren, we appear in this land as the messengers of the churches, commissioned by you in Christ's name to preach the Gospel of salvation to all, & thereby lay the foundations of those institutions that will conserve truth & become the bulwarks of the rights of man. In the prosecution of such a glorious work have the conditions indicated above, & so fearfully disastrous in their effects, the right of existence for a single moment? Are these conditions, to any extent whatever, just to your missionary agents? Are they just to the people, your brethren,

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who have been recipients of your sympathy and assistance? Are they just to the work in hand, that of spreading the word of the everlasting Gospel amongst four millions of people? But above all, do they bring honor to the name of Him whom we serve & whom we are supposed to imitate – who gave himself freely for our sins & the worlds salvation & who in answer to the earnest prayers of his servants has opened wide doors of entrance which his servants now refuse to enter?

We appeal to your sense of justice. A work undertaken in Christs name & according to his command should be carried to completion. You have undertaken a work from which it is impossible in justice to withdraw.

We appeal to your Christian patriotism. You bear allegiance to King Jesus. You are also citizens by his favor of no mean earthly country – a country blessed as no other portion of the world has been through the gospel which lies at the foundation of all your prosperity in every line. Freely and most bountifully you have received, in like manner give & bring honor to your King & country. You are the custodians of a material wealth which if ~~rightfully~~ properly consecrated to the service of its rightful owner would redeem the closing years of this last decade of the century from the shame which is beginning to cover them, & make them most glorious in the annals of Gospel work.

We implore you for Christ's sake relieve this work from these disastrous conditions.

(We realize that our mission is not alone in this trial. But that this burden is common to all our sister missions does not make ours less bitter; rather more, for it makes us realize that not alone the four millions within the bounds of our mission, but the more than one hundred millions of people looking for Gospel light to the Congregational Churches of America through the Am. Board & their workers are being deprived of the full blessing of the Gospel & this blocking the progress of the work and injuring its stability.)

4 9. (Because of this greatest disaster of retarding the day of salvation, we have almost forgotten the other disasters overtaking the people of this land in their poverty & distress caused by devastating lawlessness & cruel oppressions.

Dear brethren, this work demands, not reduced, but very greatly increased appropriations. How are we to carry it on? If it is in-

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possible to increase appropriations, give us at least enough to make reasonable provision for the sustaining that already in hand. Or in the words of a brave & devoted young worker in Russia, "Withdraw from the field & give place to others who will do the work. Do not be a hindrance to the progress of Christ's kingdom in the land."

In behalf of the Mission to Eastern Turkey
W. N. Chambers.

Rec'd Sep. 26.

Erzroom Sept. 5. 1893.

Rev. Josiah Strong, D.D.
Boston.

My dear Dr Strong,

Your favor has remained long unanswered. For this I am sorry. There were various reasons for delay. Of these I need mention but one, & that is that I had not the heart to write. However one remark in your letter leads me to write you at this time. You say that these letters from the field stimulate prayer. If I can do no more, I can at least entreat the prayers of those who may read or hear this letter. God knows this work sorely needs the prayers & assistance of those who desire its prosperity.

It is no less distasteful to write, than it is to read a letter burdened with a pitiful wail. But sympathetic prayer & assistance for those in distress are always in season & thereby we bear each others burdens & so fulfill the law of Christ.

I might have asked one of these young men, graduates of our school, to write a letter. But the blow of reduction came to cast a sorrowful cloud over all. When it came to the point of writing, by order of the Station, to inform one young man that we could not longer retain his services, I was glad that the sad task did not fall to my lot. It had fallen to me however to warn him that such might be the necessity. His words to me at that time were about as follows:- "I ~~thus~~ desire to serve the Lord. I was glad to do so in this way (as preacher & teacher). It may be I can serve him better in some other way. I heartily thank you for all you have done for me & been to me. If it is necessary for you so to decide fear not, let me know. Let the will of the Lord be done."

Another ~~young~~ recent graduate of our school has been waiting for three months our decision. He did good service in a village school last winter & is ready to continue in this work. We are anxious to have him do so. His parents are very poor. The people where he taught could not give him his bread last winter; they will be less able to do so this winter. At the close of his school he said to me:- "I did not know for what I was being prepared while I was in school. This is very hard work indeed & most trying. But this short experience has given me a little idea of what a grand thing it is to assist others towards a higher & better life."

Another recent graduate of our school after a year & half's service as teacher in a village withdrew from that work for other reasons than that of reduction of funds. He went over to Russia to find work. He wrote me from Tiflis somewhat of his journey. He writes:- "With tearful eyes I left my home, with the thought of seeing the New World. My way lay in the direction of the City of Kar. It was Saturday evening. I was an entire stranger to the place & its customs. With great difficulty I found a place to sleep & it was most disagreeable. I knew there were a few Protestants in the city & in the morning early I hasted to find the place where they met for prayer. I found a small band of loving disciples gathered together in the house of one of the brethren. They had no preacher, but every one did the work of a preacher. The sadness & dejection of being a stranger in a strange land soon passed away when I saw the love & zeal & work of this household of faith. I cannot describe my joy at finding these people from various places hand in hand working for their own salvation & for the salvation of the immortal souls around them." But I have not room to quote more. After a short stay in Kars he passed on to the city of Tiflis where he is now.

Our schools opened this week. We have been forced to close the boarding departments. We have had to refuse all assistance to young men preparing for evangelistic work.

Pray for us, Pray for these young men. Pray for these schools. Pray for this work. Pray that Christ's kingdom may speedily come.

Your fellow laborer in the vineyard of the Lord

W. N. Chambers.

Filed Oct. 23.

Erzroom Oct. 7. 1893.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston.

My dear Dr. Smith,

Your favor of Aug 31st is before me. We had concluded that the Misses Cushman would not be appointed to Erzroom & had given up hope of reinforcement for another year. We were all the more resigned to this because of the financial situation. It is simply impossible to express in words, & it seems just as impossible to get the situation realized by yourselves & by the women's Boards. We will very heartily welcome Miss Chambers. But the latest news of $100,000 shortage in an already decimated treasury robs that welcome of much of the deep pleasure it would otherwise afford us. I am planning to meet her in Trebizond toward the close of Nov, judging it will take her six weeks to reach that point. The autumn is pleasant & the early winter promises to be milder than usual & we will hope for a comfortable journey.

Filed Oct. 23.

There seems to be some misapprehension in reference to the girls school. The school is not closed. It is open & in a florishing state as a school. The boarding departments of both boys & girls schools are closed for the year. This we did for the lack of funds. I am sorry if the women's Boards or any one else will feel discouraged & blame us. All I ask is that all concerned will look at the matter from our standpoint as well as from theirs. If our action might be considered "ill-advised" possibly the sending of Miss Chambers or any new missionaries whatever, might be classed under the same category. The boarding depts. of the schools here are of very great importance, but there are other matters of greater importance. And I am free to say that I think the women's Boards could easily allow large discretionary powers to those on the field to decide the relative importance of the questions concerning this work under the present circumstances of dire distress. Our feelings & judgements are to be considered just as much as the feelings & judgements of those providing the money. You suggest that the coming of Miss Chambers "will at once of course change the whole situation". If the coming of Miss Chambers will increase the appropriations the situation would change at once for the better. But if as has been the case, & is likely to be the case in the future, the coming of a new missionary decreases the amount of money available for general work ~~that~~ then the coming of Miss Chambers will only change the situation for the worse. You will remember that the estimates for general work - including womens work at the late an. mtg. of the mission at Bitlis were reduced by the amt. needed for added missy. salaries. This appears to be inevitable under the present financial stringency. It is a grevious hardship in my opinion. So that we hope you & the Women's Boards will carefully consider this question ~~carefully~~ from the standpoint of the *practical* bearing of it on the work here before you condemn the action of Erzroom Station.

I trust that my words will not be misunderstood. I think I feel the importance of woman's work to its utmost extent. I heartily trust that Miss Chambers will be appointed & that she will come here. To such an extent ~~do~~ I feel the importance of that particular work that, with two other men in the station, I would be willing to give place in the interests of women's work. At the same time I feel very strongly that woman's work should not be pushed at the expense of any other work. The kingdom of Christ is an organization fitly framed & joined together so that *all* the parts are *interdependent*. If one suffers *all* suffer. The true success of one is the success of all.

This leads me to a word on the action of Erzroom station concerning the appropriations for 1893. Mr. McCallum, the Sta. Sec. has written you in reference to that. You have officially called the attention of the mission to this this deprecating the action of Erzroom. I think that the whole action of the station should be stated. Please note therefore, 1. We received notice of appropriations in February. 2. We carefully went over the whole situation of the work in the station. 3. We judged it would only increase the evil results of the disaster to administer the funds as appropriated. 4. We proposed a re-adjustment of appropriations in a way that we felt would be better for the work. 5. We submitted the question to you asking for endorsement. 6. We received no reply & so we had to assume the responsibility of administering the funds to the best of our judgement. The letter to you may have been lost, or your reply may have shared that fate. But that would not be our fault.

In my own case I felt then, & I feel just as strongly now that I could not conscientiously administer the funds as appropriated. I am exceedingly sorry to find myself in any way at variance with the principles of the Board. But I cannot do violence to my conscience & best judgement simply in order to be in harmony. I most earnestly hope that a similar state may not arise when the appropriations for '94 are announced. I feel much heavier the burden of responsibility for the progress of this work in the field in all its departments than I do the "virtual pledge" of the Am. Board to the Women's Board in the making up of the appropriations. Those Boards exist for this work of establishing the Kingdom of Christ. While the rules of the Board must be considered & respected & every effort made to conform to them, yet the work is better served on occasion by waiving the rules. And it seems to me that discretionary power should be granted to the stations under such stress as the present.

Let me call your attention to two items of importance.

1. The max. limit of ~~approp.~~ estimates ~~are~~ is announced to the mission within which all estimates must come. In dealing with this estimate the lump sum needed for missy. salaries is deducted - the bal. goes to general work, including women's work. It will easily be seen that this missy. sal. estimate is variable. For instance Mr. Allen's sal. Mr. Gates sal. Miss Kimball's sal. Miss Frasers sal. had all to be provided out of this max. estimate

To offset this Dr. Raynolds, Miss Daniels & Miss Mitting are absent. So the amt. required for the missy. force ~~for~~ '94 is greater than the estimates provided for for '93. This ~~greate~~ extra amount is taken from the amount that should be appropriated to general work - Nat. agency - Education & Women's work. That is the missy sal. is provided at the expense of the general work, or in other words the foreign force of workers is increased at the expence of the native force of workers - a disastrous result. The native force should be sustained in every possible way, as it is the force that will carry this work to completion.

2. The general work, so called, has to suffer in the second place ~~from~~ because of the attitude in reference to work for women. For the current year even contingents for work for women were granted & regular estimates for general work were heavily cut. There is no doubt that work for women is very important. But it must be remembered that *leading items* in general work are of far greater importance than *contingents* for work for women. The very statement of the case brings vividly before the mind the deliterious effect of such a state of things, not to say the, shall I say? absurdity.

You will note that general work is beset from two sides, first by missy. sals. & second by work for women. Now I submit, that though Ezroom may not have done the best thing, she may have done just as well as all others involved, for the best interests of the work so dear to us all.

To turn to another subject. I am very sorry to have to say that there is no visible improvement in the condition of the country. The "bread question" has assumed a phase of very great gravity. The distress is very great & everything indicates that it will increase as the time passes. From the Pasen districts the people (Armenians) are in large numbers abandoning everything & going over the border to Russia clandestinely. From Todoveran ~~where~~ one of our outstations 27 Armenian families have gone, leaving less than 20 Armenian families in the village & most of these are doing their best to get away. We have a school & house for preacher & they will in all probability be left empty, or have to be sold to Turks. We have received word of contributions for famine relief for which we are indeed thankful. But we are at a loss how to expend it to the best advantage the distress is is so wide spread.

In this connection allow me to say that the members of the station are daily becoming more & more involved because of high prices. Flour is 3 & 4 times its usual price. The prepared wheat from which we make meal for porridge & of which we use a good deal is nearly 5 times its regular price. Potatoes are nearly 3 times the usual price. The one item of meat has not changed materially in price. Barley (for horses) has risen to three times its ordinary price. We have done our best to cut down expenses, but our a/c's. will be heavily involved at the close of the year. I am at a loss to know what action to take. I do not want to involve a penny's extra expense for the Board. But this expense is beyond our control.

Dr. Parmelee is here with us. He came on with Miss Grace Knapp reaching here on Wednesday. Miss Knapp left in Mr. Macallum's company yesterday for Khanoos where her brother will meet her. Mr. Macallum will tour Khanoos.

I hoped to write you at length about our schools, but this letter is already too long. I will hope to do so next week. I was assigned to the school work this year. I am glad to find them in good condition. The Kindergarden was divided into two parts. The other day we had just 62 scholars in the two Kindergardens. There are 70 names on the rolls. The primary has 40 pupils, the Girls school has 33 and the boys school has 27 pupils. We have been very busy trying to obtain permission to build the Girls School & also official permits for all the schools. Mr Hovhannes Aghajanian the political head of the community has rendered invaluable service - in fact he has done all the negotiations & both projects are in a very fair way of being consumated.

Last week we invited the church to hold a meeting of special prayer for the Lord's blessing on the meeting of the Board. The meeting was a good one & the prayers offered & the sympathy expressed manifested a spirit that was very encouraging —

Our daily & earnest prayer is that God's blessing may rest on the meeting at Worcester.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Oct. 7. 1893.

Rec'd Nov. 2.

L.M.N.

93

Erzroom Nov. 4. '93.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Smith;

Your favor of Sept. 26th was duly received. I hope the appeal I wrote in behalf of our mission may be of service. If you have decided to put it in leaflet form may I ask that a copy may sent to each station of the mission. I had not time to send a full copy to the stations. The matter was talked over at An. Meeting & placed in my hands. May I also ask that copies be sent to the following:

✓ Rev. A. F. Norcross. Sherburne Chenango Co. N.Y.
✓ Rev Wm A. Weeden. Upper Montclair. N. Jersey.
✓ Rev. C. M. Morrow. Danbury. Ct.
✓ Rev. E. L. Dresser. Flandreau. S. D.
✓ " Mr. Ellsworth. Newark Valley N.Y.
✓ " " Patton Westfield. N. Jersey
✓ " " Hanna Falls Village Ct.
✓ " Jas. Chambers. 97 East 116th St. N. York City
✓ Talcott Williams Esq. S. 16th Street Phila. Pa.
Rev. John. Macmillan. 76 South Parade Belfast. Ireland.

Could these leaflets sent be marked with my initials?

But the mtg. at Worcester is all over. We anxiously wait to hear the result. I presume our suspense will be removed in a week or ten days.

Our schools in this city are doing very well. The outstation work is greatly hampered by both the lack of funds & also the famine & oppression. This province seems to be getting nearer anarchy every day - the present state is horrible.

I have to report that we have received official permit for the Erzroom schools from the local authorities. This permit with the seal of the province is said to take the place of a firman for all practical purposes. We have in hand permits for 1st Kindergarden. 2nd Primary. 3rd Girls School. & 4th Boys School. These last two including Intermediate & High school depts. in each. The permit was issued for the "Protestant" schools to me. I signed the receipt for it & thereby became responsible for them. In this Mr Hohannes Aghajanian rendered invaluable service. The question came up in connection with our request for permission to reconstruct the girls school. The first question was has the school an official permit. The Chief School censor was friendly & he asked "Why don't you take out a permit?" We said certainly we will be glad to have one. He began to work up the

the question & finally the permit was issued. But permission to build has not yet been granted. We had every hope that we would have had it in hand this fall. But it has been delayed & it is becoming doubtful whether we can get it or not.

Your letter announcing the appointment of Miss Chambers is at hand. I plan to leave for Trebizond to bring her on in ten days. We are entirely in the dark as to when she will reach Trebizond. I fear we will have bad roads.

Mr. Macallum is out visiting the brethren East of us in Passen.

I wrote you last summer at length about the condition of the station. I am sorry to say that I am persuaded that a reconstruction of the station will be an absolute necessity. Perforce this winter will have to pass, but the early spring should see a change. Possibly we may be able to come to some agreement as to some proposition to make to the Mission & Pru. Com. to relieve this condition of affairs. I merely mention this now that you may be prepared for further correspondence on the subject.

Just now the weather is bad & malaria seems on the increase in the city. Our children seem the trouble. Kate is still dieting. It is over a year now that she has been on a limited diet - the principal thing being milk. In that way & with the utmost care in every other way she keeps fairly well. Mrs. Chambers is not at all retaining what she gained under Dr. Goodell's treatment. She is much more nervous than when we returned & her heart's action is not strong. Possibly that is due to this high altitude.

Mrs. Richardson is recovering from miscarriage & the other members of station are in usual health.

With kindest regards
Yours very truly.
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Nov. 4, 1893.
Rec'd Dec. 15.

P.S. I think I have already mentioned the fact that our a/c's. will be greatly involved this year. Prices are very high. e.g. the other day I paid for a quantity of prepared wheat which we grind into meal for porrige $4.40. The same quantity would have cost me two years ago $1.00. Last year it was a little over half the present price. Flour has been up to 4 & 5 times its usual price. This entails tremendous suffering on the poor. W.N.C.

Erzroom Turkey-in-Asia.
Nov. 4. 1893.

Rev. C. H. Daniels
121. Bible House N.Y. City

Dear brother Daniels,

Your good letter of June 29 reached me July 20th. I was glad to hear from you. I have had your letter on my table a long time awaiting answer. School work has taken up a very great deal of my time since Sept 1st. & so the answer has been delayed. [How pleasant it is to give ones self to a promising & progressive work. This school work is ~~very trying in one way but~~ it is exceedingly interesting. To see children gradually yeild to discipline & get down to work & in it all, show signs of progress gives one real encouragement. Our schools are made up largely of Gregorian scholars & they afford a splendid means of impressing Christian truth.] Where lying & swearing & such like are thought little of there is a good field afforded for teaching Christian ethics. [I have been taking one class through the life of Christ & another through the story of Saul & David & Solomon. The boys seem greatly interested & also impressed.] (Such questions as "Why did not the Jews believe in Jesus? How could they help believing when Jes was amongst them & did so many mighty works these & such like questions afforded good opportu for ~~inforcing the thought of the unprejudiced~~ the reverent study of God's words & works & so lea of Him emphasised with the thought that "excep ye repent &c".

[Our Kindergardens - we have two with ove 30 pupils in each - are very flourishing. This kinderga work is going to work a revolution as great as girl's sch did some years ago. ~~A few years ago when we sta the Kindergarden~~ The people said How can a thr year old child go to school? They thought it folly Now many are enthusiastic over it. It is a powerful ocular demonstration that small ch ren can be trained, when they see 35 children betw the ages of 3 & 7 obedient to school rules.] One l girl objected to punishment saying that her moth said she was not to be punished. However sh got her punishment & is now quite obedient The general opinion is that small children c not be trained. It is pitiable to see how moth are helpless in the hands of a small boy. Eve the fathers are ruled by them. One marvelou thing to me is to see so much filial obedienc in grown up boys & young men. There no training for a boy, but a strong public opi keeps a young man in bounds. He wou be outlawed were he not obedient to his father

But I started out to speak of another question. I received the $80. The amount you mention as coming from Pomfret Ch. does not seem to have reached our treasury.

You will have received $75: from Mr. Weeden of Upper Montclair. I wrote him on behalf of a school in Kara Kala in Russia. The school was in fearful straits for money. I thought Mr. Weeden might have responded with $15 or $20. But he & his Y.P.S.C.E. became so interested that they promised the entire amt. $100 & sent to you $75: I warned him not to let it interfere in any way with regular contributions of the Board; if he could give a special in addition to regular offering to the Board well & good. Mr Weeden is an enthusiastic man & went farther than I supposed he would. I write you this that you may know that I asked for a special, but ~~only~~ stipulating that it should not interfere with the regular gifts to the Board & I trust it has not.

The outcome of the meeting at Worcester is known to you long ago. We are still in suspense & know not what to think. With a hope that scarce knows itself from fear we look for the next post. Possibly next weeks post may bring us some news. Will it be harmony or division? Will it be new life or further retrenchment? Oh, why cripple the process of christianizing & civilizing a nation for any

W. N. Chambers

hypothesis of a broader hope. The hope may
all very well, but the simple preaching that
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinne
should not be blocked by the agitation of an
such hope.

[The state of the country here is getting wor
Famine & devastation by Koords &c are rus
the country on to anarchy. Breadstuffs 4 ti
the usual price & no money in the hands of the
people to buy with.]

I start for Trebizond in 10 days to bri
back Miss Chambers of Iowa. If I had
known in time I would have written you to
secure for me & send with her a Smith & We
revolver. One needs one in such a countr
as this.

Please give my regards to Mrs Daniell
& also to my acquaintances amongst the
churches as you meet them.

Mrs Chambers joins me in kindest
regards.

Yours truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom. Nov. 17'93.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith,

The post this week brought us news of the result at Worcester. The question of second probation is not one that causes us any trouble here. The practical demands of this work of proclaiming the Gospel message, of inculcating the Christ life, the reestablishment of evangelical institutions leaves but little room for speculation. So the discussion of that question concerns us only in so far as it has blocked the progress of this work in the diminution of supplies. I fear that discussion has to answer for the failure of a goodly number to take proper advantage of this present probation for it has prevented the knowledge of salvation reaching them. The crippling effect of the conditions of the past & current year on this work is sad indeed to contemplate. The result at Worcester is well calculated to put an end to that state of things. For that reason we rejoice & thank God and take courage. We also rejoice in what appears be a manifest answer to prayer. That the Board convened at Worcester, threatened with disruption, and closed its sessions ~~& held its sessions to the end~~ more firmly knit together & with a more earnest determination to seek a practical solution of the burning & most vital question of the hour - the proper carrying forward of the work of preaching the Gospel for the redemption of this present evil world - is a most inspiring fact that has eased very greatly the burden that oppressed so many hearts. Now that peace is secured and unity reestablished God grant that the churches may with a will address themselves to cancelling that debt & providing adequate supplies for the prosecution of this work.

Some certainly regret deeply, ~~what~~ action that could be in some cases only construed into a countenance of the theory of probation after death. But such can well afford to allow that thought to loose itself in the more vital fact that charity, mutual concession, & unity have prevailed.

Judging from the report we get through the Independent the meeting must have been a memorable one. We rejoice in the thought of renewed zeal & power resulting therefrom. May God guide all & use the result for his glory.

We are waiting with what patience we may for news from Miss Chambers. The only news we have so far is your favor of Oct 20th to Mr. Macallum giving the information that she was to sail the next day. I have telegraphed Constantinople for news of her. I do not wish to leave here till I get some word of her whereabouts & the possible time she will be in Trebizond. Traveling just now is hard & expensive & I do not wish to delay more than a day or two in Treb. because of the expense. I wrote some weeks ago asking the C'ple. friends to make provision for her reaching Trebizond. Receiving no word from them I judge they will do so. We have had a fall of snow & I fear the journey will be rather trying to one not accustomed to it. It is getting so late I have in mind to start on Monday.

The exodus to Russia continues because of the distress in these districts. The Govt. is bringing in grain in order to lower the price of bread. As the weather grows severe the distress increases.

Last week a band of Koords entered the village of Todoveren one of our outstations in Passen. They proceeded to the house of our helper. Two of the pastor's sons do a little trading in the village. Their store was near by the house. The wife of the pastor was awake at the time with a sick child. The pastor himself was absent at another village. When the wife heard the noise at the door she opened the window & asked who was there. She was ordered to be quiet or she would be killed. The robbers then tried to break open the door of the shop. Whereupon the pastor's wife climbed the stairway to the roof of the house & screamed to the villagers for help. Before the robbers could effect an entrance a crowd of villagers collected & after a scuffle drove the robbers off. Mr. Macallum left the village that morning on his way home after a tour through the Passen plain.

"No Christian village in the district at eventide is sure that it will not be pillaged by Koords before morning. Turks themselves are suffering from the deprada~~da~~tions of the Koords."

Our outstation work is suffering badly from these three causes. 1. Koordish depredations. 2. Poverty — four Prot. families left one of our outstations for Russia the other day. 3. Lack of funds.

Our schools here in the city are continuing in good form. We divided the Kindergarden. Now we are forced to divide the Primary.

Your favor of Oct 5th is at hand. Last week before receiving your favor I wrote you. I asked that if the appeal I forwarded be put in leaflet form it might be sent to a few addresses which I mentioned in that letter.

I also briefly referred to that letter to the other question which appears in yours of the above date. As you remark if a change can be brought about in some natural unforced way that would be most desirable. It was my hope that we could have come to some understanding and so have made some recommendation to the mission and Prudential Com. to afford them a basis on which to act. However on account of the present state of Mrs. Richardson's health we have not been able to have a conference over the matter.

* The gentlemen of the station held a couple of conferences but the after effect was such on Mrs. R. that further conferences were postponed. She was recovering from miscarriage & it was supposed that she would be able to endure;

As the time passes apparently a solution is as far off as ever. For the last few weeks nothing has occurred to mar the harmony. This however is a negative peace – not a positive peace. We are all trying our best to keep the peace. But many things are ~~at~~ today, the least embarrassing. There were 3 possible plans which suggested themselves to me any one of which might have relieved the situation.

1. My withdrawal – This seemed a possible

a possible solution at one time. This I would have suggested, not that I would like to get out of Erzroom work. I am deeply interested in it & personally am ready to spend my life here if that is the thing to do. I would have suggested it on two grounds: (1) To relieve the situation. Mr. Macallum thought at one time it might be possible for himself & Mr. Richardson to work together. He was in doubt about it, while I hoped it might be a possible solution. He was anxious for another trial. Now however he feels very strongly that he could not remain alone with Mr. R. (2) I would have suggested it for the sake of Mrs. C's. health. I am sorry to say that her nervous symptoms are increasing. I think this is due to two things (a) the situation of station affairs & (b) the high altitude. And we have no physician whatever to consult, upon whom we can place any dependence whatever.

.2. The withdrawal of both Mr. Richardson & myself and the securing of another associate for Mr. Macallum. This would not be because there is any trouble between Mr. M. & myself or our families. On the contrary the relations are most cordial & I think we could work together with the greatest harmony. This suggestion would simply be on the thought that it would show the distress of the station must be broken up - or rather reconstructed on the ground of the incompatibility of the members. This ~~would~~ also would afford relief on the question of Mrs. C's health.

3. The withdrawal of Mr. R. I do not wish to bring any railing accusation under this head. Both Mr. & Mrs. R. are greatly devoted to the work. But both of them seem to lack that something which would make their devotion effective. There is a homely illustration used in this country which illustrates the situation. A cow may be a first class milker. But to what good is that quality if after filling the pail with milk she lifts her foot & ~~spills~~ knocks over the pail. The work is lost, the effect of the work - the milk - is lost, & it is like water spilled upon the ground. I could mention several things but I do not wish ~~to~~ more than to say that Mr. R. is nervously constituted - rather short tempered & impatient. Those qualities under controll may do no harm. But because of them some very painful things have taken place in connection with the work. On the part of both Mr. & Mrs R. there is a lack of something which makes association exceedingly difficult both socially & in in the work. Now I do not bring

these things up as accusations, but only to give you an idea of what the condition of things is. In all this I do not say that ~~I~~ we have been faultless - not by any means. I am desirous of bearing all the responsibility for this state of things that legitimately falls to my lot. We can see the faults of others better than we can our own. It is only a painful duty I feel I must perform to let you understand the condition, that I write this at all. And I repeat that if my withdrawal will relieve this state, certainly let me withdraw.

I still hope that we may come to some understanding ~~for~~ as to a proposition to the mission & to you.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroum, [illegible] 1883.
Rec'd Dec. 15.

P.S. If however there occurs to you any solution of the difficulty we will be glad of your advice. You will note however that this letter is entirely un-official i.e. I write it entirely on my own responsibility. The station has no part in it.
W.N.C.

Erzroom Dec. 5. 1893.

Rev. Judson Smith,
Boston. Mass.

My dear Dr. Smith,

You will have received from the Sta. Sec. - Mr. Macallum - word of Station action in reference to the question of a chapel for Erzroom. We ask permission from the Prudential Com. to make special appeals to churches and individuals for contributions to supplement what the people and the Board may be able to give. We have taken this action because the question of a new chapel here is one that presses upon us heavily.

This may appear to be an inopportune time to bring forward such a question, but we have waited several years for "a more convenient season". In 1879 when I first came to this field this question was up. It has been a live question, but held in the back ground ever since. It now forces itself forward. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick", & discourageth the soul. It may be that we will err if we postpone the question further. A question forcing itself forward as this one is doing should have careful & full consideration. May it not be ripe for execution?

It is far from our thought to trench on the income of the treasury of the Board. The amount given by the Board must be decided on the principle on which all appropriations are made i.e. considering its relative importance with reference to the whole work in hand. The present financial condition of the Board seems unpropitious. That $88,000 debt, & $150,000 extra for general work must have the first place in any increase. But such questions as this are of prime importance. They have a direct bearing on the progress of the work. We earnestly urge this one that it may receive all due consideration. We feel it to be of vital importance. To carry the enterprise to completion must take a long time & it should be undertaken at the earliest possible moment. We may have already delayed too long.

In considering it allow me to call your attention to the following considerations:—

1. The present chapel was built in part in 1869 the year after Messrs Cole & Pierce joined the Station. The brethren had met for worship in various places, and finally an old house was purchased. That old building was repaired enlarged & used for some time

as both school & place of meeting. Later it was again enlarged to the present proportions. These changes indicate the growth of the work. Again growth forces enlargement for the present accommodations have been outgrown. But this present building cannot be further enlarged. That was done to the fullest extent last time. Any change on this building would involve its destruction. Besides if any enlargement were possible it would at most afford only small, unsatisfactory & only temporary relief. Its dimensions are 40 X 25 feet, & 13 feet high with flat roof. When 250 people are seated there is little room left: there being no way of ventilation few leave the service without a headache.

2. A new chapel would give a great impetus to the work in the city. The present pastor is a most active worker and inveterate preacher. He not only attracts by his preaching on Sunday, but his work through the week visiting strangers who come to service once tends to bring in other strangers. But attracting people to church & then have them turn away because there is no room for them is not only very discouraging, it cuts the nerve of effort in that line of work. The pastor seeing his earnest efforts go for nothing when they might tell for a great deal, would naturally feel discouraged

and restless. He asks if it is not possible for him to have permission to travel in Europe & America to solicit funds for a new chapel. This we do not encourage at all, although the result attending the efforts of Rev. Mr. Papazian for the 2nd Church Marash is a great incentive to such a man as this to attempt like effort. Rather than have him attempt what may probably be impossible for him - the attempt being undesirable - let us undertake to do all that can be done to secure the accomplishment of this most desirable object. The mission has heartily endorsed the proposition of a new chapel for Erzroom & the estimate £2000 - low down in Contingent - is in your hands.

3. The influence on the work of the whole station field would be most stimulating. The state of the work as to appearance & aggressiveness in the central station has a very great influence on all the outstations. Not only on the evangelical communities is this true, but it impresses the other communities with the fact of the stable & enduring influence of this work. People do look at these things and are affected by them. The present building is rather a shame to the cause, which is indeed worthy of something better than this.

4. Proximity to Russia. I have already stated to you in conversations my conviction concerning this phase of the question. On one occasion a few of the brethren from Russia were in attendance at a meeting of our cooperative alliance. They urged this saying; "Whatever else you do, do all possible to strengthen this evangelical work in the city of Erzroom". It ordinarily is the custom of the Russian govt. to respect the existing institutions of an annexed territory. If they are in accordance with the law of the land, their essential features are not touched. This was the case at the time Kars was annexed. The Protestants were not only unmolested, but they were accorded the privilege of retaining the services on Sundays & keeping open the school. This was of great importance when the Protestants removed from Kars & established themselves in Kara Kala. They obtained certain special privileges. That school had no special permit. It was found in existence at the time of conquest & was tolerated. Now if the Protestant Church here in Erzroom is in existence with special firman I feel quite sure that it would secure the official recognition of the Evangelical Armenian Church.

This is a thing that should call forth every endeavour. It cannot be done under Russian rule - but it can exist under Russian rule. The Protestants of the Caucasus labor under many disadvantages. Though the Protestants of Turkey have an Imperial Firman securing their rights as a community yet each separate church must have a separate firman. This being the law of this country the Russians would accept it. At least it would not be meddled with at least for some years. This all goes on the supposition of that this territory will fall sooner or later into Russian hands. That seems to be the the inevitable lot of this part of Turkey at least.

If there was no other reason this would be sufficient to incite every effort to accomplish this enterprise.

5: Now as to the matter of the people & what they will do. As a general principle the amount of the assistance rendered by the Board is to a great extent dependent on the amount contributed by the people. That is, the people must move & do what they can that they may have the right to expect assistance. In reference to this church & community, they as yet have made no pledges. They deeply feel the need of a new building. But they know they cannot contribute a sum sufficient to induce the Board to render sufficient assistance to enable them to do what is necessary. Besides for the last few years the reduction of funds, or I might rather say the inadequacy of available funds for regular work has not been, to say the least, inspiring to hope. In addition to this the financial condition of this country has grown steadily worse & worse. The people feel the pinch of poverty. This is not a temporary panic or a "hard time" condition as now holds in U.S. It is the doom of the country under the present regime. Improvement can only be temporary. So the people feel themselves unable to do very much. Yet I feel very confident that when the question takes definite shape they will do their utmost. Such assistance should be dependent, not on the sum total that the people give, but on the spirit with which they give.

Besides ~~when~~ a church of this kind is not only of local importance. It has a much larger outlook than the bounds of the Prot. community of the city of Erzroom, or of Erzroom Province. Its success should not be conditioned by the poverty of this people. In its present interests, & future effects it is far beyond this Erzroom community.

The sum at present in our minds & which appears in the estimates of the Bitlis meeting of this year is £.T. 2000 which equals $8,800. This is a tentative estimate. There are things ~~that~~ cannot be definitely estimated. For instance there are bits of property adjoining the present site which would have to be purchased. With the first inkling of a new church ~~the~~ such property will double in value.

As soon as the Prudential Com. endorses this project & authorizes us to make special appeals we will get the people to make definite arrangements for subscriptions & plans. It seems to me this is the better plan, because the people now are hopeless of assistance. As soon as there is that definite hope I feel quite sure they will do their duty. They are put down at £500 in the estimate.

We trust you will give this question your earliest possible attention & careful consideration.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom Dec. 5, 1893.
Rec'd Jan. 4, 1894

Erzroom Dec. 1st 1893.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr Smith;

In one of my former letters I said I would write you at length about our schools. I am sorry I have been delayed so long.

This summer the question for an official permit for the schools came prominently forward when we made application for permission for enlarging the girls school building. The question was at once asked, "Has the school an official permit?" The censor being friendly proposed to issue one at once. After much delay the local govt. issued the permit. The permit was issued to me as principal of the schools. It is in four parts, or rather four permits were issued - one for the Kindergarden, one for the Primary, one for the girls school & one for the boys school. These two last include the two depts. of intermediate & high for each school. The schools are graded in this way running through the four departments from the Kindergarden to the High Schools. This puts the schools on a better & surer basis than they have hitherto enjoyed.

the permit for the enlarging of the girls school has not yet been granted. We were in very great hopes that it would have been given so that the work could have been commenced this fall. I believe the Censor & several other influential officials are desirous of granting it. But one man can block even the will of the Governor. The affair is delayed just now by desensions amongst the officials who have the matter in hand. Now we can do nothing till Spring & who knows what new thing may arise to block the enterprise.

In getting out the permit for the Kindergarden it was a problem with the Turk how to characterize it. Text-books must all be authorized & if an unauthorized book be used it may forfeit the permit. To authorize the Kindergarden "play-things" was a thing the official mind had not contemplated. However as there were a few pupils who were learning to read an "Armenian primmer was entered as an authorized tex-book. They seem to have perceived the excellency of the system & are high in their praises of it. Now that girl's education has gotten a start amongst them, may it not be that the Turks may have kindergardens before long.

~~Six~~ Eleven years ago there were very few here who thought that kindergarden work was within the possibilities. Some declared it absurd & asked incredulously, "Can a child of three years old be sent to school? Can a child be taught anything before learning to read? A school without books! Why waste time & money on ~~in~~ play?" The school was opened however as an experiment. It began with about a dozen pupils, but soon grew to encouraging proportions. The people soon began to see the good effect of it & realize its excellency. ~~The~~ danger then was, not of having too few pupils, but of having more than could be accommodated & cared for. The work grew in popularity steadily. An attempt was made to establish a rival kindergarden, & other special efforts drew away a few pupils. Unfortunately the rival school did not succeed & ours grew to quite large proportions. There being too many pupils for one school it was decided to divide & make two kindergardens. To meet the extra expense the tuition of the new school was made double of the old one. Two girls had finished their studies in the girls' school & they had also taken instruction in kindergarden work. They were put in as assistants & the ~~two~~ two teachers who had been working in the old kindergarden were put in charge - one in each school. Doubt was expressed that the higher tuition would prevent the success of the new school & it would make an invidious distinction between rich & poor. However as the instruction was to be the same in each school & the only difference would be in place & amount of tuition it was judged that such objection would have little effect. Our hope did not carry us beyond the expectation of 20 pupils in the new school, and 30 or 35 in the old. But we have 38 in the old, and 32 in the new making 70 kindergarden pupils altogether.

When this question was discussed in Committee meeting with the native brethren there was only commendation for the system. One committee man gave it as his decided opinion that no effort should be spared to make the kindergarden a success. "Let us do what we can" he said, "for the other schools, we must exert every effort for the kindergarden. That is the place for education & training."

In this land training of the very young had been ordinarily considered a question amongst the impossibilities. Coaxing a child with candy or other presents, or working on its sense of fear are common expedients resorted to to induce the child to do what is wanted of it. If this bribing fails, & the child is master of the situation —

punishment to a great extent is left to a chance fit of imptience or to a sudden burst of anger. There has been improvement made in this matter, but there is vast room for further improvement.

Only the other day from my window I saw a mother endavour to induce a small boy, possibly 5 years of age, to do what she wanted. She called him, the boy objected. She tried to persuade him. He shrugged his shoulders & became impatient. She undertook gentle force. He began to cry. She tried more force. He threw himself on the ground and began to cry vociforously, & beat the ground with his little heels most vigorously. She then tried by main force to carry him away. He screamed at the top of his voice, struggled & twisted out of her hands. She gave up discouraged. He had gained the victory. The outcome was not doubtful from the begining. It was but the repition of a lesson he had already learned. It would but give him a stronger faith in the power of resistance & the right of his own small will, ill no matter who might be involved. The baffled mother had nothing to do but patiently, or possibly impatiently, await the pleasure of his little mightiness, while she woued comfort herself with the remark, "He is a child, he does *not* *want* to; what can I do?"

. Where so much dependence is put upon bribing or terrorizing a child to secure submission it would appear rather absurd to collect 20 or 30 children, between the ages of 3 & 6, and expect to subject them to school discipline. But the accomplishment of it is a very powerful demonstration that such a thing is possible & that not through bribery or terror, but by gaining the confidence & love of the children. It is a new thought to them that the will of the teacher is to rule. Sometimes a little judicious punishment is a surprise & has a salutary effect. One little four year old boldly told the teacher that she was not to be punished. Her mamma had said so & was coming to forbid it. She got her punishment however, which had the desired effect, & there was no objection made by the mother. So Ext.

Not only will this kindergarden work be a great blessing to the children who enjoy its privileges, but it may be the means of working a revolution in the popular mind in reference to this most important matter of the training of small children, and so become a blessing to the land. It is a demonstration of the fact that it is not necessary to allow a child's will run wild, nor yet to break and so subdue it, nor yet to force it into a particular mould, but rather to train & guide it so that it may loose nothing of its native force, but rather be trained to conserve & exert that force to the best advantage, and in accordance with its own individuality.

You will note that even if the girls school had been closed Miss Chambers would have had a splendid opportunity for her best efforts in these two kindergardens. We earnestly hope that she has studied the system. If not let that be kept in mind when her associate is appointed. A kindergardner has a most interesting & promising field before her.

The other schools are in good form. Altogether we have 175 pupils. The large majority of them are Gregorians. This educational work is most interesting & encouraging. We trust more liberal things are in store for us & that it may be put on a better basis.

Arrangements have been made for a systematic visitation of all the families from which pupils come. The ladies of the station have been visiting the mothers of the girls in school. They have been received with uniform goodwill & cordiality. Thus these children open about 70 ~~families~~ doors for visitation outside the Protestant community.

Mrs Macallum is closing her second week with typhoid fever complicated with bronchitis. The highest point of her fever has been 40° Cent. I am glad to say she seems to be holding her own very well indeed, & we expect she will be convalescing in a few days.

Miss Chambers' movements have been retarded somewhat by cholera & quarantine. At last advices she was at C'ple. & asked if she had better remain. We replied that she had better come to Trebizond with the first opportunity. I plan to meet her there. I fear we will have to spend New Years on the road. Now that she is on the way we are anxious to have her here at the earliest possible moment.

As to famine it is hard to know what to say. The assistance already sent had been of service. But the want is so very great that we feel that any adequate amount cannot be secured. Not $1,000, but $10,000 would be required to lighten the general distress a little. Bitlis province is also in a bad condition, even worse than this. I ~~presume~~ estimate that 10,000 (ten thousands) Armenians have fled to Russia from these two provinces since harvest. May the Lord have mercy.

Yours very truly W. N. Chambers.

Rec'd Jan. 9, 1894

Dec. 9. 1893.

Dear Dr Smith,

You will find enclosed a letter concerning the question of a new chapel for Ezroom. I take the opportunity seeing that Miss Chambers is still at C'ple. As soon as I heard of her coming & the duty of meeting her fell to me. I wrote Mr Peet asking him to make arrangements for her getting to Trebizond. We thought that some arrangement might be made & so save the expense of my going on to C'ple. I hoped to hear from him as to the possibility of this plan & I was preparing to meet her at Trebizond. Last week however I received a tel. from Mr Peet saying no arrangements could be made for her journey. I have therefore decided to go to C'ple. for her. I have asked the Russian Consul for permission to pass through Russia to Batoum & so avoid cholera infected districts till I reach C'ple & also avoid quarantine. He has telegraphed the governor of the Cacausus & hopes to get a favorable reply. In which case I will start as soon as I get the permission. In case that fails I will go by Trebizond. I will have ten days quarantine on the Black Sea. But I do not fear the cholera, only the irksomeness of quarantine & the extra expense. But it will be most inconvenient, almost impossible to meet her in the Spring & we judge that the best time is now.

Mrs Macallum seems to be doing very well indeed. The pastor was taken sick with some head trouble this week & he will be laid up for some time at least.

The rest of us are usually well.

As I remarked some time ago, you will find our personal accounts heavily involved. We have done the best we could to cut dow expenses, but it has been impossible to keep them down. It is a trial to us to have these debts more particularly at this time. I trust you will understand the reason for the showing on the balance sheet for Dec.

Yours very truly
W. U. Chambers.

Dec. 9. 1893
Rec'd Jan. 4, 1894

Constantinople Jan 13. 1894.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston Mass

Dear Dr Smith.

You will know at once why I am here. It was found impossible to send Miss Chambers forward from here that we might meet her at Trebizond. Then the question of coming on here was considered & we decided that that was the best way. Our reasons were as follows:- If she did not come to Erzroom now she would have to come sometime in March or April, or wait over till July. We judged January as favourable a month for traveling as March or April - no more danger of exposure & storm if indeed as much. We decided that July would be very late. We would be unable to meet her in May or June because of An. Mtg. &c. So we decided the present the best time. Had she remained in U.S. this winter & studied thoroughly the Kindergarden System we would have been delighted. Please keep that in mind an associate for Miss Chambers is being considered.

I had good fortune to get permission to come through Russia. I had a good journey reaching C'ple in 12 days from Erzroom. We plan to return that way & are awaiting a steamer for Batoum & hope to leave here on Tuesday. I fully expect to be back in Erzroom before the first of Feb.

I hear very good opinions expressed concerning Miss Chambers here. She has in the little I have seen of her impressed me as a person of well balanced & careful thought.

I have not time to express myself as to appropriations. We had not received word when I left Erzroom. I received word of the reduction here. All I need say now is, it exceedingly saddening that regular estimates so carefully made up as an. meeting should be reduced & secondary contingents for women's work should be granted. Why might not that action be avoided this year?

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

[illegible] 188[illegible]

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr. Smith,

[illegible] to inform you [illegible] Miss Chambers [illegible] reached here on Monday last after [illegible] considering the time [illegible] rather [illegible] journey [illegible] very tired. [illegible] a longer road [illegible] better [illegible] letter for [illegible] a few dollars [illegible]

[illegible] of fares & [illegible] work.

I found the [illegible] the dishes in [illegible] increase. [illegible]

[illegible]

Constantinople, Jan. 13, 188[illegible]
Rec'd Feb. 3

an accurate [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] considered.

I had good fortune to [illegible] permission on to come [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to a good [illegible] vacation [illegible] to [illegible] from [illegible]. The plan [illegible] that [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] on Tuesday. I [illegible] expect the [illegible] in Smyrna before the first of Feb.

I have very good [illegible] [illegible] concerning [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. She has in the little I have seen of her impressed me as a person of well balanced & careful thought.

I have not time to express myself as to appropriations as I had not received word when I left [illegible] [illegible] of the reduction here. It [illegible] now it is exceedingly [illegible] of the regular estimates so carefully made up [illegible] [illegible] should be reduced & secondary [illegible] for woman's work should be [illegible], why might not that action be avoided this year?

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers

Constantinople, Jan. 13, 1890
Rec'd Feb. 5.

Erzroom. Feb. 3. 1894.

Rev. Judson Smith. D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr. Smith,

I have time for only a line to inform you of our safe arrival here in Erzroom. We i.e. Miss Chambers & myself reached here on Monday last ~~after~~ the 12th day from C'ple. We had considering the time of year a most easy & comfortable journey. We reached here in good form & not very tired. We came through Russia. It was a longer road, but made in better time than the Trebizond journey could be made because of the better facilities in traveling. It may have cost a few dollars more.

We are very much pleased with Miss Chambers so far, & the prospects are that she will do good work.

I found the friends here all well as usual. The distress in the country continues & is on the increase. The outlook is altogether hopeless.

With kindest regards
Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Feb. 3, 1894.

Filed Mar. 5.

Feb. 23. 1894. Erzroom.

Rev Judson Smith DD.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith,

Mr. Macallum has, as Station Sec. given you a minute of Station action in reference to the estimates & appropriations. Allow me to add a word by way of emphasis.

The large amount of time & care expended on the estimates at the last annual meeting whereby they were reduced to the very lowest possible point makes it impossible to reduce the regular estimates any further. We are often reminded that assistance is rendered from year to year. Is not that position tenable only to a very limited extent? The assistance rendered leads those receiving it to assume obligations which otherwise they could not discharge, and therefore would not assume, & which every principle of morality demands should be discharged when once assumed. The withdrawal of assistance renders it impossible for the people to discharge such obligations. In the past it has been the boast that missionaries would suffer loss rather than give even the appearance of receding a hair's breadth from their words. Now, not only are they forced to withdraw, but they, by that action, force others into conditions making the discharge of obligations impossible. For instance, through the cooperation of the missionaries with a certain community, a church is organized or a school is opened. The very presence of the missionaries, in the enterprise, as men here to assist, & whose avowed intention is to carry the work of the evangelization of the country to completion, & the financial assistance rendered to it, become pledges that they will continue to assist in sustaining it in all legitimate ways until it becomes self supporting, or until such time as that, all existing obligations being discharged, new arrangements may be made. In the arrangements of details & carrying forward of such an enterprise obligations are assumed which in point of fact become mutual to natives & missionaries & which run, not through one year, but it may be through a series of years. No school or church in Turkey is established on the supposition that it will be a yearly experiment & may be snuffed out at any time. They are established with the intention of making them permanent. This being understood from the very inception of the work, those who put forth their hand to it become parties with & so far forth responsible for it, & responsible to associates in that particular work. They are therefore in duty bound to put forth every effort possible so to act as not to bring odium on the work in hand, or compromise the moral standing of those engaged in it.

The present stress, increased by the manner of appropriation forces us 1. To break obligations which are in all morality binding. 2. To put others into conditions in which they are unable to discharge obligations assumed through our encouragement & assistance. 3 To be the means of entailing hardship on employees who have devoted themselves to this work & who have no other means of support. This not merely discourages our helpers & people, but it shakes their confidence in the integrity & stability of the Board. The country is not able to support its native agency & this part of the country is less able than it was years ago. Young men will refuse to enter work in which they may be possibly thrown out of employment at a time when the time has passed for them to obtain other work. 4. To stultify ourselves in the estimation of other communities. This work is not done in a corner. Other communities watch it. Missionaries have entered the country undertaking a work intended to be permanent. They have raised a high standard of business and moral integrity. In the eyes of the people of the land the missionary is morally pledged — & are they not right? — to this evangelical work in all its phases. To withdraw financial support on the ground of lack of funds is a confession of weakness which is humiliating to us & in their eyes dishonorable, more particularly where money is obtained for work of very much less importance than that abandoned. And to excuse the withdrawal of support on the technicality of a temporary promise would beget their contempt.

For example, the pastor on the Passen Plain is a man of tried character. He has done good work. He has not only the love of the evangelical people, but has the good will & respect of all communities. He goes from village to village & is welcomed everywhere. On my way from Russia the other day I spent one night in a village near the Russian border where there is not a Protestant. The people with whom I talked ~~with~~ that night spoke in high terms of affection & respect for this worker commending the work he was doing. He has a large family & it would be impossible for him to obtain for them daily bread were he cut off at this time. His salary is too small for ordinary years & it is almost a disgrace not to provide him a ~~famine~~ famine allowance at this time. The people are unable to pay him anything because they themselves are in need of daily bread. In looking over appropriations this man's name came up as one of those who would have to be cut off were we to force the work into the measure of appropriations. It is not too much to say that our feelings recoiled at the thought. Imagine the injury to the work; the disgrace ours; the unrighteous hardship entailed upon him & his family; & the disastrous shock it would be to the people of the plain. For very shame we would not be able to visit the place for a long time at least.

In all this you will get some idea of some of the considerations leading us to decide to carry on the work for the present on the basis of the regular estimates of the mission not on the basis of the appropriations. We cannot but hope and believe that the estimates will be restored before the end of the year.

But in addition to this the manner of appropriation adds greatly to the embarrassment. 54 f. are cut out of regular estimates. Then the most urgent request of the mission is placed at one side and out of the "*preferred contingent*" list items nos. 9-13 are selected & granted over those which are of very much greater importance. Not only so but these very important items are passed over a second time & from the "*secondary contingent*" list items nos. 13-16 are selected & granted.

In other words.

54£ are cut out of the most vital part of the work.

82£. are granted for items of work which are below the 9th place of importance in "*preferred contingent*" thus passing over 8 items of greater importance calling for 88£.

60£. are granted for items of work in "*secondary* contingent" which are below the 28th place in order of importance in the *contingent* lists. Or counting out the items granted from "*preferred*" contingents these items are granted in preference to 23 items of greater importance, some of them of infinitely greater importance.

Consider well! 54£=$237.60 are cut from the very *vitals* of the work, while 60£.=$262.00 are granted for work which, under present circumstances, is declared to be of the 28th rate of importance after *all* regular estimates are provided. When the heart is pierced the extremities need no care.

Now we request that we be alowed to use that 60 £ for supplementing the regular appropriations to the amount of reduction called for. Otherwise, with all due respect for those making the appropriations we find ourselves unable in conscience to administer the "secondary contingent" grant - & we will leave it untouched. We cannot in conscience cut off or even reduce the salary of such men as the one referred to above, ~~in order to~~ & then administer the second contingent.

We are not conversant with the reasons for the manner of appropriation. We do know that the result is injurious to this work. This work of establishing Christ kingdom is more than our lives, it is more than the Am. Board, or the Woman's Board, it is more than any arrangements existing amongst the Boards. We therefore respectfully protest against the wrong & earnestly urge that it be righted.

We are earnestly anxious to be loyal to the great trust committed to us. Our first thought is the establishment of Evangelical Christianity. We feel that your hearts suffer as acutely as do ours because of this stress. Earnestly praying that God may guide us all in these most trying circumstances that so burden our hearts, & embarrass the work we are in common trying to carry forward to completion for His glory & with kindest regards,

I remain

Yours very truly

W. H. Chambers.

Erzroom, Feb. 23, 1894.
Rec'd March 29.

P.S. Famine stress is increasing - The government has made a dole of about 22 lbs. of flour to nearly 10.000 (ten thousand) persons in the city. There are very many others in as great need. We are trying to quietly distribute the little we have in hand to the most needy we can find. Our thought is to make a dole of about half rations to about 200 souls for a month which would use up what money we have on hand. We look forward with dread to the coming months till harvest. then even the relief will be small.

I have to acknowledge yours of Dec 15. 93 which I found here on my return fr. Cple. with Miss Chambers. Also yours of Jan. 6 & 9 since received. Miss Chambers is hard at the language & we have confidence she will do good work in the school. Our first heavy fall of snow has been this week - four days of a snow storm - not violent.

W. H. C.

1/6

Ararat High School
Erzroom. Feb. 1894.

C. H. Daniels D.D.
Boston U.S.

Dear Dr. Daniels

Your favors of Dec. 16. & 19. '94. were awaiting me last week on my return from Constantinople where I had gone to escort back Miss Chambers our new teacher. We had a good & comfortable journey back notwithstanding the January cold. However I would not care to run the risk of bad weather very often at that season. We were very fortunate indeed. Miss Chambers seems enthusiastic over school work & is somewhat impatient to get to work in school. We are quite favourably impressed with her & feel she will do good work in school. Please remember that while we are glad of this recruit, we are not satisfied with one. We should have at least two ladies & three have been called for. If possible we want the next lady to know music & to that a great addition would be French. By the way for these lands a knowledge of French (i.e. a speaking knowledge of it) is of very great advantage. Advise those whom you know to have missionary work in view to perfect their knowledge in French. Ordinarily only a smattering is gained in American schools which is useless & the time given to it is wasted.

We do not urge the increase of the station under the present financial stress. We would rather urge the decrease of the force. If some of us could only get away without expense & what is expended on us could be expended in the regular work it would bring some relief. We cut our estimates at An. Meeting almost past the surviving point. It is simply impossible to cut any further. We __cannot__ cut out that 54 £. So we have decided to go on on the basis of the estimates till we hear from you & in the hope that before the end of the year there may be a restoration of the general estimates. However as we were cautioned last year about using funds appropriated for woman's work for anything else we have decided __not to administer__ the second contingent for woman's work. ~~We~~ I, for one, cannot retain my selfrespect and cut the __regular estimates__ and make them conform to the appropriations, while more than the reduction is granted to secondary things in woman's work. It would be a sin to cut 54 £ from the from the salaries of old & tried preachers who have done noble work for God & have borne hardships as good soldiers of Christ & for his love, & expend 60 £ for things that are of great importance in one way, but under the present circumstances are of no importance as compared with the items in general estimates. Cannot something be done to induce the woman's Boards to make a change, or at least to ~~make an exception~~ waive their principle during this time of stress. If the appropriations are administered as made it would cause most unrighteous hardship - I had almost said an outrageous hardship. Please excuse these expressions if they seem violent to you. But the situation is simply awful. If there was no money to supply any contingent estimates it would be rather different. But the ~~items~~ appropriations clearly show that there is something radically wrong in the relations between the Am. Board & ~~the~~ women's Boards which entails a condition of things which is radically wrong. May God wright the wrong & sustain the work of His kingdom.

I received word of $33.21 as coming from Woodside N.J. Of course I was unable to connect that with Mr. Dennison of Pomfret ~~N.J.~~ Ct. I wrote a note in acknowledgement and asked Mr. Ward to forward to the unknown donor. I would be glad to know of that letter reached Mr. Dennison. If not I would be glad to write him.

The famine conditions are increasing around us. Prices of breadstuffs keep up, & money is exceedingly scarce. Very many who have always eaten wheat bread are now glad of barley bread. But barley is now just eight times the price it is in ordinary years. The stress will continue to increase. Up to this time there were many who had a little flour. They have now exhausted that stock & so the destitute are increasing daily. We are grateful for every dollar of assistance

Kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

P.S. I have written this in the school room in the intervals of hearing classes & other duties.

Erzroom, Turkey.
Feby 1894
Ans. July 6.

Ezroom March. 30. '94.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr Smith,

Referring to my letter of Nov. 7. 1893. you will find reference to the state of Ezroom Station. The condition of things has made no improvement. It has attracted the attention of the people to such an extent that some of them called a meeting in the chapel to take action & protest against the state of things amongst the missionaries. Fortunately Mr. H. Aghajanian was present & guided the meeting in such a judicious way that nothing was done ~~no action was taken~~ & the more violent were ashamed of their action. However there has been ground for protest, but not in the way the people thought of doing. The condition of things has been most painful. I feel that my year & a half, since our return, has been to a great extent ~~more than~~ lost. Not only has the past year, more particularly, been meagre of good results, but it has been a year in which actual injury has been done to the work, to the reputation of the missionary name in general & our station in particular.

As to the responsibility for this it is safe to say that none of us are entirely free. For myself

I blame myself for assenting to the "new trial" proposed by Dr. Thom. I am no more convinced now that continued association is possible than I was then. The other gentlemen were ready — Mr. Richardson anxious, & Mr. Macallum somewhat hopeful. Dr. Thom urged us to let bygones be bygones & start out again. It was urged that it was the proper & Christian thing to do. I consented & we all went into the arrangement to do honestly all possible to make the trial a success. That trial has been a sorrowful failure. I blame myself for going against my feelings & convictions. Before the understanding arrived at at that time there had occurred things that had been trying indeed. The greatest care was necessary to heal the difficulties. The "understanding" was still very young when the R's actively interested themselves & most injudiciously in a matter that almost made a division in the congregation & sent one family out of it. In the midst of this there took place a most sad & unbecoming conversation between Mr. R. & the wife of the native pastor. If there had been nothing else ~~were wanting~~ these were sufficient to demonstrate the fact that the new trial would be a failure. But later when the distribution of work was made, the usual difficulty with Mrs Richardson presented itself. She appears to make everything a personal matter & when arrangements were made to transfer the schools to my care involving the care of the girls, ~~which~~ who had been under her care the previous winter, misunderstandings arose which she allowed so to affect her that she became sick & suffered a miscarriage. The responsibility for this miscarriage was put upon us — Mrs. Chambers & myself. We consider ourselves as absolutely free from all blame in that matter & that we were in no way responsible for that misfortune. The R.s. afterwards in a ~~matter~~ manner apologized for the unjust charge & I only mention it to show you the rate that things have gotten into, & the imperative need of change. Later. They have made further apology for the imputations referred in the above paragraph.

This was followed by several conferences between us gentlemen of the Station. Mrs. R. again became so affected that further conference was deferred till she should recover. It was so delayed that we could do nothing more before my departure to escort Miss Chambers fr. Constantinople. ~~On~~ After my return nothing could be done till Mr. R. returned from Erzingan. Then the question was forced upon us because of the affair between Mrs. Richardson & Miss Chambers. Miss C. has written you giving account of that matter & I need not repeat it. We now blame ourselves for arranging for Miss C. to live in Mr. Richardson's house. But the fact stands out before us that Mr. Richardson & family are here on the same standing & rights & privileges as any of the rest of us. Besides the rooms in his house were available & comfortable. The other rooms were appropriated for other purposes before we received word of Miss C's. appointment. You will note that the heavy part of Miss C's. trial was before Mr. R's. return from Erzingan.

The result of our conferences on this matter has been to pass a resolution to the effect that we unanimously agree that continued association will be detrimental to the work & ask the An. Mtg. to grant permission to the R's. to go to Erzingan for a year.

This resolution has in its favor the consideration that it is supposed to afford an easy way out & may have a better effect on the people than to have Mr. R. leave directly for U.S. I confess I have not found myself in an attitude favourable to that resolution since its passage, though _I myself drafted it_. Things that have come to my knowledge since have made me feel like withdrawing my support of it.

The considerations against it are: 1. The question of health. Both Mr. Macallum & myself distinctly stated that the question of health would be enough to prevent its being carried into execution & that we could not become responsible for the effect on the health of those going there to live in the summer. We would not only not advise it, but we would strongly disfavor it. 2. The difficulty that would arise in the conduct of affairs. Consultation would would be exceedingly difficult & slow work. Erzingan is our most important outstation & affords a most interesting & promising work. 3. Past experience does not inspire confidence that Mr R. & family would be the best to prosecute that work so far removed from the checks &c. put upon us all by station organization in the central station.

Whether that plan is the best one or not remains for the An. Mtg. of the Mission & the Prud. Com. to declare. I would only add the we cannot entertain the thought of that occupation being permanent. I for myself am convinced that further association with Mr & Mrs Richardson will only be detrimental to the work & to our own welfare & the sooner the association is discontinued the better. It must be settled this spring.

In our opinion Mr. Richardson should have gone to U.S. a year ago on account of health. Most certainly they should have gone at least two years ago on account of the little girl's health. The longer they delay the worse it will be.

Since writing the above I find out in conversation with both Mr. Macallum & Miss Chambers that neither will favor the coming of an associate for Miss Chambers while the Rs. remain in the station. Now I do not hesitate to say that another lady missionary would be of more account than any one of us three. Under the present circumstances two man can do all that the three of us are accomplishing. Not only so but none of us is able to do the work that another lady missionary could accomplish. It therefore follows that one of us three ought to give place for the good of the work, for we fail to accomplish the best possible. In the second place if the Rs. are the preventing cause they ought to give place. They should not remain here a month if they are preventing a work more important than they can accomplish.

Now will you allow me to speak plainly simply in order to save time. It may occur to yourself or the Com. that a letter of advice and admonition might have the effect of relieving the distress and bringing about an arrangement whereby the disolution of association may be avoided. Now the following is the resolution referred to above.

Resd. that,

1. We declare as our unanimous judgement that a change in the personel of the missionary force residing in Erzroom city is necessary for the best interests of the work.

2. We call the attention of the mission to this fact & recommend that permission be granted to Mr. Richardson to occupy Erzingan for a year looking to a solution of the difficulties, the result of the experiment to be reported to the An. Mtg. of the mission in Erzroom in the Spring of '95.

In this please note:- 1. A change is declared to be necessary to the interests of the work, i.e. the continuation of the present association is detrimental. This is our emphatic & unanimous judgement arrived at only at this time after a long sad trial with a majority of experiences pointing to this conclusion. It is but just to say that Mr. Richardson concurs in this resolution because the circumstances are as they are at present, but he urges that with a better understanding & greater care in the future harmony might be restored and separation avoided. All the other members of the Station are unanimous in the settled conviction that that is an *absolute* *impossibility* & not *one* of us is willing to endure it – in fact we *refuse* to endure it longer than the time necessary for the departure of the Rs. Otherwise we insist on our departure. Whether you will think it well to wait for the deliverance of Annual Meeting or not it is impossible to judge, but I take the liberty of suggesting that you make this one of the very earliest items of business. And when the decision is communicated to the Rs. it should be plainly indicated that not more than a month should elapse before their departure after they have received your order. Judging from the past their departure will be delayed till the last possible moment & the longer the irritation of their departure continues the worse it will be. In any case there will be a great deal of comment. This state of affairs has continued long enough, the sooner changed the better for all & everything concerned.

Please note in the second place that it is proposed that they should go to Ezingau for a year. In the first part of this letter - written a week ago - I say that I doubt the propriety of that move though I myself drafted the resolution. Mr. Richardson made the proposition. I hoped at the time that might be a possible solution for the present. But as time passes I am more & more convinced that that move will not be a relief. It will rather be a complication of the difficulty than a solution, & only delay the settlement.

It is only proper to say that the relations amongst the other members of the stations are of the most cordial & harmonious kind. I am exceedingly sorry to say that Miss Chambers has been very greatly hampered in her work by this condition of things. Her health has been affected & her enthusiasm greatly dampened. I find her a most efficient worker in the schools in which work I have been thrown into much consultation with her. The opportunity for work before her is very great in these schools. It is far more than she can accomplish under the most favourable circumstances. She should have an associate at once. The kindergarden schools are increasing upon us affording splendid opportunities for most telling work. We must not refuse receive the pupils. Calling at a Gregorian house the other evening on the parents of children in the school, ~~they~~ I remarked that the school was being crowded & it would be difficult to receive any more scholars. In answer they said. "Do you suppose you can refuse to receive the brothers & sisters of those already in school. You will simply have to provide further accommodation". I was greatly impressed with what I found out that some of the Gregorians in selecting the houses they rent for the ensuing year take into consideration the facilities for getting ~~[illegible]~~ children to our schools. To take advantage of this opportunity ought to be one of our most earnest efforts. The way ought to be opened for a new lady missionary & that lady missionary should be sent at the earliest possible date.

We do earnestly entreat that you will consider this question at as early a date as possible.

Yours very truly,

W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, March 30, 1897.
Rec'd May 2

Erzroom. April. 28. '94.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr Smith,

Under date of March 30. I wrote you about the state of things in the Erzroom Station. I gave you a copy of the resolution passed by the station. Since then the resolution has been reconsidered & changed the first part remaining as it is & in the second part simply the attention of the mission is called to the state obtaining & request made for action looking to a solution. My objections to the first resolution I stated in my previous letter. They finally led me to ask for a reconsideration of the question. Although it was the turn of Mr Macallum & myself to go to meeting Mr. Macallum resigned in favor of Mr. Richardson in order to give him an opportunity to have part in the discussion of the question. Naturally Mr. R. does not wish to leave the mission though he has given up hope of ~~continued hopes~~ continued association with us. He would be glad to go to Harpoot if that were possible. I have written Dr. Barnum asking if such a thing would not be possible. He would have a new start there. I told Mrs. R. that I had made that proposition to Mr. Barnum & he said that for many reasons he would be delighted to go there. Both Mr. & Mrs. R. have great confidence, I think, in the judgement of the friends at Hpt. & would be guided by them. Being free from the conditions induced by previous experiences here Mr. R. might possibly do good work. Of this however I am becoming more & more confirmed in my judgement that relief must be had here.

Erzroom, April 29, 1894

Filed May 22

(We have had a week of prayer through this Easter week of the Armenians. They have not been marked by any marked movement, but they have had a good effect I feel quite sure. This is the second year for Erzroom Church & I hope it will become an established custom to have a meeting every day through Holy week. Tomorrow we hope to enjoy communion. Two new members are to be received.)

(Famine continues & increases in severity. May the Lord have mercy. The outlook is exceedingly dark. If the farmers do not obtain seed wheat. The Spring is late.)

Yours respectfully W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom May 17. 1894.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Smith,

I hesitate to write you once again about our Erzroom troubles. But it is only right you should have all information necessary. Mr. Richardson left for An. Mtg. day before yesterday. As the question had to be referred to the meeting it seemed but just that Mr. R. should be present. Mr. Macallum resigned in his favor. Mrs. Chambers & I were very anxious ~~to~~ visit Mardin – her early home – & the scene of much of her father's labors. However the thought of the agitation of this question cast such a cloud that when the R.S. decided to go Mrs. Chambers felt there would no pleasure in her visit & so she decided not to go. Then when we got permission for renewing the Girl's school building it seemed too much for one man to assume all the work here. Besides this year the expense of the journey for two delegates from Erzroom would have taken half the appropriation for An. Mtg.

So I resigned my appointment as delegate in favor of Mr. Richardson. He being in the minority in the station it seemed the best thing for him to and represent his own views of this trouble. Mr. Macallum & I placed in his hands for presentation to the meeting written statements of our position. They were virtually identical statements i.e. they presented the same conclusion that continued association was absolutely impossible, and that arrangements should be made for the removal of whoever goes at once. If I leave I must leave the moment the question is decided. The same is true of the Rs. There should not be a day's delay.

We placed our statements in the hands of Mr. Richardson to read. I then had a conversation with him about my statement. In it I said that if the mission should consider it necessary or advisable that I should withdraw the statement should be considered as my resignation. I wrote you about these troubles under date of March 30. I only refer to them again to let you know what further has been done in the matter. I wrote to Mr. Barnum & Mr. Barton suggesting that under different conditions, in different association, and freed from the atmosphere that surrounds us all here Mr. Richardson might do good touring work in Harpoot. I asked if it would not be possible to invite him there.?

The one particular question to keep in mind is that we must have relief.

The other day we secured through the untiring efforts of Mr. H. Aghajanian a permit for the renewal of the girls' school building. Work was begun a week ago & part of the old building has been pulled down & some of the foundations have been laid. The Govt. officials are very friendly just now & we hope to get the building completed before any complications take place. The permit is for repairing - but that is interpreted on broad lines so that we are doing a good deal more than simple repairs. I fear also that the appropriation will run short this expensive year, & with the opportunity of doing a good deal in the way of building. This opportunity must not be lost. If we do not get done what is necessary now we may never be able to get the permit again.

The famine increases in severity. We are making a small dole of bread to over 1000 persons in the city. We have sent a good deal of what has been received to the out districts for seed & bread. In the Khanoos district

It is estimated that not more than 1/5 of the usual quantity of seed will be sown. With a good average yield this will not provide seed for the next year. The distress then is sure to continue for some time. In Pasen there may be sown between a half and three quarters of the usual quant. of seed. The other day company of refugees from Khanos - most of them Protestants - came into the city. It was a pitiful sight. They were fleeing to Russia. They were absolutely without anything but the ragged clothes on their backs. What will become of them it is impossible to say. What a terrible thing famine is!

We are devoutly grateful for what has been sent for assistance. Mr Macallum is writing you more fully about this.

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, May 17, 1894

Filed June 12

Erzroom. July 16. 1894.

Rev. Judson Smith,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr Smith,

There are a number of things to which reference should be made.

1. Last Friday the 14th inst. the last of the examinations & the closing exercises of the schools took place. The week had been devoted to the examinations & closing exercises. On Monday one Kindergarden & the Girl's Primary were examined & closed. Tuesday the 2nd Kindergarden & Boys Primary. Wednesday the Girl's Intermediate & High School. Thursday & Friday the Boys Intermediate & High Sch. I am glad to say that the examinations & closing exercises were quite successful & the interest manifested by many outside of our own community was quite marked & very encouraging. We closed schools with over 200 pupils & the outlook is very encouraging. The work done during the term seemed to be very good. The girl's schools have been put in Miss Chambers' hands with every hope that the coming year will be successful.

The kindergarden work was the marked

feature. In the two Kindergarden schools there were nearly 90 pupils. At the closing exercises of one of the kindergardens there were over 200 people present all manifesting the deepest interest. A very small part of this audience was evangelical.

I am glad to say that the relations with the officials are very cordial. The Muarif & the various members of the Educational Commission have shown themselves very friendly. Yesterday we had these officials out here at our Encampment & gave them a dinner of a lamb cooked whole. They day passed off very well indeed. We felt we could not do less to show our appreciation of what the Commission had done. The first special favor was the granting of the official permit recognizing the existence of the schools. The second was a special effort on their part to secure the building of the girls school. The obstruction of the 2nd story was not their fault. If it was in their hands they would give the permission to day. We felt it necessary to recognize their favors & we took this way of doing it.

The head teacher of the girls school left us last week. We hoped to get a teacher from Harpoot, but this post gives us word that we cannot. We are wondering what we can do in arranging the matter here.

2. The second question is the one of vital importance to the life of this station. The An. Mtg. has recommended the acceptance of Mr. Richardson's resignation as you will have heard before this. This was their official action with a declaration to the effect that if Harpoot or Van would invite Mr. R. that would be acceptable to the mission. This is the only official action. However when Mr. Browne was here he informed us that it was the thought of the brethren that if the station could, it might be well to invite the Rs. to go to Erzingan for a year. We had a meeting to consider the question & passed a resolution accepting the "suggestion" of the mission. (This also was the ~~going our own~~ suggestion of the people here when two of them came to confer with us about the matter). To our great surprise Mr. R. was ignorant of any time limit to the question of going to Erzingan & hadn't realized that it was a serious thought entertained by the brethren of the mission. So the time limit blocks their going to Erzingan i.e. they do not wish to go on the condition of leaving at close of the yr. Van will not invite him & it is very doubtful ~~with~~ that Hpt. will. I think Mr. R. accepted the result of the Mtg. & would withdraw as soon as possible, but apparently Mrs R. is determinedly opposed.

So the action of the mission has not improved the situation. Since the action of the mtg. was communicated by Mr. Browne to the people there has been a very great deal of excitement. I understand on very good authority that the element in this question that has excited some of the people is that the opposition we offer to Mr. R. is on account of his friendlyness with the people. It is impossible to dispel this very false impression, because in doing so the whole question in detail would have to be discussed with the people. We have to bear this false imputation in silence & we cannot do anything to dispel it so long as this condition of things continues. Up to the time of this distress I have had the reputation of being friendly with the native brethren. I think we should be as friendly as possible with the native brethren consistently with our responsibility to the Board & mission & our associates. I have always tried to be in as close sympathetic touch with the brethren as possible at the same time keeping in mind my position as a missionary of the Am. Board & my duties toward my associates in the mission. Even with the greatest care wrong impressions will get abroad. But I had the reputation both amongst the native brethren & amongst Gregorians & also in the mission of being amongst the the most friendly and sympathetic of the members of the mission with the Armenians. Now however, having pursued the same course, I have gained the reputation of being an enemy of the Armenians. I only say this as an introduction to this remark that I feel that my work here is of little value at the present time. It is impossible for me to dissipate the false impression & do good work under the present circumstances. Only time and careful work can rectify to some extent the injury. Now in order to rase this question & secure relief M. Aghajanian - whose name I have mentioned to you before - has been persuaded by the people to try & do something. He proposed to us to remove the time limit from the invitation to the Rs. to go to Erzingan. He seemed to think he could persuade the Rs. to go at once. After consulting with Mr. Macallum & Miss Chambers I answered him to the effect that we could not reverse our settled conviction that the going of the Rs. to Erzingan would be a mistake, yet we had already accepted the suggestion of both the native brethren here & of the mission & had invited the Rs. to go to Erzingan for a year. But now the question had passed out of our hands & we could not remove the time limit from the

(the suggestion ~~from~~ of the mission nor could we ask the mission to do so. We could only leave the question in the hands of the mission & the Board. And with that statement of our position in mind we would be exceedingly glad for anything he could do to relieve the distress. If the Rs. would go to Erzgan & move on to Harpoot from there it would be a good thing. We are awaiting your action. I write this much that you know the present situation.

The present situation has added to the previous one this element, that one member of the station is half resigned & now is time for preparing for fall work & we are still in doubt what elements to take into consideration.)

The weather is still dry & hot. The outlook is not brightened by the prospect of a fairly good harvest. The distress is on the increase. The coming winter promises dire distress.

With kindest regards
Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom July 16. 94.

Erzroom. Aug. 3. 1894.

Rev. C. H. Daniels, D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Dr. Daniels,

Your kind favor was received last week. I was glad to hear from you. We were however sorry to hear of the illness of Dr Smith. You need more help at the Rooms & ought to have it. I wish you could come out this way next year. The An. Mtg. of the E. T. M. is to be held in Ezroom about June 1st. You could from here make a tour of the mission. Our letters reach us from Am. in 3 weeks, so that you could count on a month. allowing time for a visit in C'ple &c. You could count on six weeks from Boston to Ezroom. Therefore leaving B. about the 15th April would bring you here in time. It seems to me that you officers at Boston ought to be personally acquainted as far as possible with us missionaries & the fields in which we are working. Possibly at this time of depression it would be impracticable, but it is a question that ought to be agitated. The trip of the mission would be about as follows starting from Ezroom - Van 8 days - Bitlis 4 days. Mardin 7 days. Harpoot 7 days. This is about an average. You could do it in less or take more time as you pleased.

As Dr. Smith is absent & you and others have divided his work & we have as yet no news as to what action the Pru. Com. has taken in reference to Erzroom troubles I call your attention to the question once again. I would urgently plead that just as little delay as possible be made in the adjustment of the affair. I do not know whether the extra papers &c. in reference to the case were forwarded to the Rooms or not or what representations were made by the Mtg. at Mardin. You have at least the minutes of that meeting in hand. I would call attention to previous correspondence from this station & allow me here to give the latest phase of the question.

The An. Mtg. in *informal* way persuaded Mr. R. to present his resignation. This he did & it was accepted in *formal* session. The official act of the mission was the acceptance of this resignation *from Erzroom station*. Informally the brethren instructed Mr Browne to suggest to Erzroom station that Mr. R. be invited to go to Erzingan "*for a year*". This action threw the question back on Erzroom station with the effect of nullifying the official action of the mission. Erzroom station was forced to accept the unofficial suggestion of the mission & Mr. R. was invited to go to Erz^{n}.

r a year. The mission did another thing that mplicated the question. It declared that if either n or Harpoot should invite Mr. R. that action ould be acceptable to the mission. Another thing at complicated the question also was that Mr. Browne clared both to us & the people here that Mr. R. was indicated", that his resignation was accepted simply cause he was in the minority & that he had a right to main for a year in the mission. To the people he said t Mr. R. had a right to remain in Erzroom for a year. effect of all this on those of the people who have actively oused Mr. R's. cause was to confirm them in their false pressions that Mr. M & I had united to persecute . R. & drive him out of the station. It strengthened . R. & Mrs. R. in the feeling that they were being "pushed" t of the station & so they were disposed to "fight" somewhat longer. The distress was only increased. After Mr. Browne's visit the station passed a resolution accepting the suggestion of the mission t Mr. R. go to Erzingan "for a year". Mr. R. objected the "for a year" clause. Van refused to invite him & rpoot ~~he~~ so far has failed to invite him & everything dicates that, to say the least, there is no desire on the t of Hpt. to invite. So Erzroom was forced ainst its best judgement to invite Mr. R. to Erzm

Erzroom extended this invitation almost immediately & be
anything was heard from either Van or H'p't as to their possibl
action

The "for a year" clause put this in jeopardy. We had emphatically declared that continued associat was absolutely impossible & put in our resignati Our resignations were not accepted & we forced i a situation in which our hands were tied We could simply do nothing, but wait in humiliat for developments.

The civil head of the community here is a shrew man (in the good sense). He is a man of experienc & good judgement & earnest Christian effort He is a man for whom I have high respect & with whom I have worked with pleasure & satisfact for years in the Cooperative Soc. Comte. & in othe matters concerning the work & in church matter After Mr. R's return fr. Mardin & Mr. Browne's visit this scandal got to such a pass that some of the people urged him (Mr. Aghajanian) to do something for relief. He at first refused ~~as~~ such a thing was not in his province. Though he and Mr. R. have had a num of "rows" he has acquired considerable influen over Mr. R. He finally determined to make an effor & had several conferences with Mr. & Mrs. R. He then came to me & asked that if possible we wou remove the "time limit" of the invitation to Mr. R. by to Erzroom. I told him that that was out of our power. Contrary to our judgement we had accept the suggestion of the mission & we were willin to leave the question with the mission which in its suggestion had assumed the responsibility of the Rs. going to Ezingan & we could not go back of that action. I also stated that we felt that the people had been taken altogether too much into confidence & entirely erroneous impressions had gone forth as to our attitude & reason for our action & that they (the people) had interfered a hundred fold more than they had any right whatever. However, I said, that if he was able to persuade Mr. R. to any action that would relieve the situation we would be very grateful. I had a conference with Mr. Macallum & Miss Chambers & was authorised to confirm to Hohannes Agha Aghajanian what I had said to him in conversation. In persuance of this Mr. Aghajanian urged that if possible the "time limit" be removed & that he himself would become surety for Mr. Rs. leaving Ezingan in case Mr. R. did anything unacceptable, not that he believed he would not do anything, but that ~~he would~~ in all probability he would do something to lead him out of Ezn. within the year. You can imagine the feeling of humiliation to us when a man, even of Mr. Aghajanian's high character, should propose to become surety for one of our mission associates.

Everyone interfered [illegible] should immediately [illegible] anything was heard from [illegible] as soon as letters [illegible] accepted

Further negotiations through Mr. Aghajanian led to a conference between Mr. R & me. In that it became apparent that Mr. R. was of the opinion, & naturally of the very earnest desire, that we should not only remove the "time limit" from the Erzgan invitation, but remove all objection & consider the question at an end. The substance of my part of the conversation with him was to this effect that it was impossible for us to recede without sufficient reason from the position which we had taken, ~~without sufficient reason~~, & as time passed we were only confirmed in our position. New events & developments failed to inspire any confidence in the future. In the matter of the Ezg^n. invitation we had simply, out of deference to the mission, ~~had~~ accepted the suggestion of the mission, leaving the question & the responsibility of it with the mission & Board. ~~On the~~ He objected that the time limit put odium on him & injured his reputation, besides he felt that great trouble would arise amongst the people on his leaving, this he magnified greatly in fact out of all bounds. I answered that the people had been altogether too officious in the matter, that they had greatly exceeded their rights & if he was anxious that as little further injury as possible would [illegible] be done he would [illegible] leave at once for Ezingan, & that any storm that might arise would loose its violence very quickly & soon pass altogether. This question of a "storm" amongst the people is quite imaginary in Mr. Rs. brain, although the people have received many very false impressions & have heard many very slanderous things. Undoubtedly great injury has been done which will take a long time indeed to rectify. My plea is that if I am to have a share in rectifying that injury I wish to begin at once, or leave that work at once to whoever is to do it.

In addition I said to Mr. R. in reference to the "odium" that the mission had put the time limit, & we could not remove that odium. Besides if he wished that odium removed in an honorable way it could only be done at the end of the year, not at the beginning. If the mission saw its way clear to remove that limit at the end of a year, it would be more to his honor and reputation than for us to do it now, even if we had the right, without sufficient reason to lead us to do so.

Another conference with Mr. Alhajanian & Mr. R. decided to go to Ezn. We had hoped that he would take his family at once. This he did not do, but left last Tuesday for Ezingan to prepare the house. He will then return to take his family in the fall. This course we regret exceedingly but we have simply to accept the situation! When we go in from tents the Macallums will occupy the house now occupied by the Rs. I fear very much that the Rs. will not be out in time for the Ms. to go in & this will be very embarrassing which might easily be avoided.

It is but just to say that Mr. R. has made improvement in some respects to which we are glad to bear testimony, but these changes are not of such a quantity as to reassure us. In fact as I say above we are only confirmed in our position & we most earnestly hope that any action taken by the Pru. Com. will not further complicate this distress, but that it will either relieve us or the Rs. at the earliest possible moment.

There is another phase of this question about which not much has been said – the health question. We have all suffered greatly. It is a deep regret that so much strength should be lost in this way. I am sorry to say that the good effect of Mrs. Chambers' visit to America has been almost dissipated. I am not at all in the form I was. I can say the same for the rest of the station. We are forced against our best judgment to endure another year of it. Two years of it has been two years too much of disaster, the third year passes all bounds & there it *must stop*.

The action of the people has been caused by three things

1. Confidences on the part of Mr & Mrs. Richardson with

some of the people. Mr. R. now admits his error in this respect. He professes that he believed his confidences & those of Mrs R. were safe. When we heard of them we felt sure they were absolutely unsafe ~~for the~~ in respect to one or two of his confidants. He might as well have told his story in the chapel. Through these confidences, by word or action, the Rs. made the people or some of them understand that we were persecuting them (the Rs) because of their friendliness with the native brethren. Those of the brethren who have espoused their cause have done so simply on that ground. They supposed themselves to be defending those were were supposedly being persecuted for their (the natives) sakes. We have not been able to oppose this falsehood to any extent, because if we did attempt it we would be forced to go into the details of the trouble which would be entirely unwarrantable. So we have simply to wait & if we remain here, live down this absurd idea & show that we are not haters of the people, but rather, as we have always been reputed up to this time of trouble real friends of the people.

2. The people have been influenced by what they have witnessed. The above being the case it was impossible to keep up relations amongst ourselves

to show that we were not persecuting & every action was watched & commented on. It was impossible for either the Macallums or ourselves to be on intimate & sympathetic terms with the Rs. This lack on the one side, & the friendliness between the Ms & us on the other side were sufficient to confirm the false impression that ours was an evil combination. Differences of opinions on all subjects were interpreted in this way.

3 In the third place the people are given to considering themselves very shrewd & they give loose rein to imagination when it suits them to do so.

Now I have not the shadow of a doubt that the Rs. more particularly Mrs. R. has fostered this impression. This is a most serious ~~&~~ thing to say. It would be exceedingly hard to prove absolutely. The growth of this feeling & judgement on our part has been slow & steady. The confidences of the Rs. with the pastor & his wife is a strong case in point.

But is not this enough. Possibly the Com. has taken action & this letter may not be necessary. I truly hope so. I truly hope that I may not have to write about this subject again. It has taken a great deal of time. I have written this today, because the week's post is in & we have no news of the action of the Com^tee. The rush of An. Mtg. will be upon you & the question may be delayed. I also write now & at this length to confirm previous letters & to give you the latest condition, which you ought to know. also to ask that such action be taken as to prevent this question coming up at next An. Mtg. Not that I fear investigation on the spot. That would be a further waste of time & energy & it would only serve to confirm us in our present position.

I earnestly hope that my next letter to you may be one on no point of controversy.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. W. Chambers.

P.S. I have written this letter hastily & with some interruption & I made a mistake at the third page & wrote on the wrong side of the paper. I trust that in my haste I have made myself fairly clear. We hoped we would have heard this week of the action of the Com. Please do not consider that our action in inviting Mr. R. to Erzingan settles the matter. Let the matter be finally settled within this fall if at all possible. If Hpt. would call Mr. R. by all means let him go at once.

W.W.C.

Mr. W. N. Chambers

Erzroom, Turkey

Aug. 3, 1894.

Ans. Aug 28

Erzroom Aug. 18. '94.

Rev J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr Barton,

Allow me to congratulate you on the honor of your "D.D." I heard of it last week through Dr Barnum. I am glad to rejoice on hearing of honor well bestowed & congratulate you most heartily. We hear also that you have the appointment to the secretaryship. If this is true it is not with the same heart I congratulate you on that, because the loss is on the E.T.M. However a man's usefulness is not only conditioned by his place. E.T.M. needs you & especially does Harpoot. Hpt. is in great straits & I'm sure you would go there if you could & I take it it is only a higher call that would detain you. If you cannot return we congratulate you on your present work & assure you our best wishes & prayers are with you. Your experience in the field will be of utmost value to you. In fact I sometimes think that that kind of a training is almost a necessity for that kind of work. Last week I wrote Dr Daniels in response to a note from him. I was not sure who had E.T.M. in charge

& I wrote at some length about Ezroom Sta. affairs. I am sorry to have to add anything about this in this letter. But the question will not down. A letter from Dr. Barnum yesterday caused us no little surprise. Mr. Browne informed us that Mr. R. was "vindicated", this he also told to the people here. this declaration of course had its effect in a way that Mr. B. did not contemplate. He also informed us that it was the thought of the mission that the best way out of this difficulty would be to invite Mr. R. to Ezn for a year. The people say that he told them that Mr. R. had the right to remain in Ezm for a year if he wished. Depending on Mr. B's. representation of the sense of the mission we invited Mr. R. to Ezn for a year. Now Dr. Barnum says there was no one "vindicated" or "condemned." He shows conclusively that it was not the thought or advice or suggestion of the mission that we should invite Mr. R. to Ezn. & that no "right" to remain anywhere was secured to Mr. R. You will see we were not a little non-plussed on getting this letter the first real information we had of the an. mtg. We were led by Mr. B's. representations to extend the invitation to Ezingan. We did this directly contrary to our best judgement.

Now I bring this to your notice to introduce a most painful item of information. Yesterday I received a letter from one of the brethren of Zingan enclosing a copy of a letter written from here last April. This last was written by one of the teachers of our Kindergarden school at the instance of Mrs. Richardson. It was written to the girl's father. I give you the gist of it putting exact translations in quotation marks. The letter is dated April 2. '94. After charging her father to keep the question secret the girl says: "Mr. Chambers & Mr. Macallum have banded together to send Mr. Richardson to America. I say this also that ~~they~~ this is the result of envy because the people love Mr. R. very much. For this reason they (his associates) wish to send him to Am. They have had many meetings about it here & now await the mission mtg. in Mardin a month later. Even if the meeting decide he will not remain, because the missionaries cannot unite & the other two treat Mr. R. very badly. For this ~~to~~ reason he says his remaining here will not be advantageous. Although the local brethren greatly love Mr. R. yet he also loves the Z^{n} people greatly & greatly desires to go there & this thing depends on you. I know you love him very much & he loves you exceedingly & if he once goes he will remain there with his family. Now I will tell you what to do. When you receive this letter call a meeting at once. Prepare a letter on the part of the people & in it say that there are two missionaries in Egroom & because we love Mr. R. greatly & he loves us we ~~greatly~~ earnestly entreat that he be sent here. Write it in such a way as to win the hearts of the meeting. Get all the signatures of the people & send the letter to Mardin to Dr. Thom & it will be presented to that meeting. Don't delay to do this thing quickly. And do not think that I write this letter of myself." She entreats her father to do so nine times in various phrase & again says "do not think that I write this of myself, but it is by the hand of a great person ([illegible])" .... "When you write to Mardin do not say you have a letter from Egroom. Mr. Richardson loves you very much & this question depends on you." She again urges haste & care & continues "when this thing succeeds write only to me that I may give the news to Madama who sends you salutations. Let me say that this is with the knowledge of the Madama!" ———

The brother who sends me this says that the people had no knowledge of it, but were anxious to have a missionary come & because this girl's father urged Mr. Richardson's name they consented though they would have preferred some one else. The letter fell into his hands by chance & he felt it his duty to let us see how the matter was done.

Now allow me to observe;-

1. Whether the brother did well in sending this copy to me or not is aside from the question. The fact is that letter was written at the instigation of Mrs. R. There is no doubt about that. This girl was entirely under Mrs. R's. influence & much with her. She could not possibly make up such a letter unassisted.

2. The letter slanders us & gives a false view of the condition here. This is sufficient to have the girl dismissed from school at once, but she is not the real author of the letter, only a tool. We can't punish the girl because of the circumstance.

3. I would call attention to page 21 of the new "Handbook" & ask if this letter does not come within the sweep of that article especially sec 2. on p. 22. We have suspected just this kind of thing, have been morally certain of it. Here is proof positive of not merely of ~~undue~~ unwise confidences with the native brethren, not only giving wrong impressions, but of doing what has very much the appearance of actual slander.

4. The Mission accepted Mr. R's. resignation from [illegible] Sha. On Mr. Browne's representation of what he declared to be the unofficial sense of the mission as a good thing to do, we were led to action that in a measure nullified the acceptance of the resignation of Mr. R. This we did against our judgement

5. Your letter in re. mission minutes received yesterday leaves the question in as undecided a state as ever. You say, "no action was taken here upon the resignation of Mr. R. from the mission, because the location of missionaries within a mission rests with the mission itself." This is simply "no action." Though you give Mr & Mrs. R. "permission" to return to Van, "whenever it seems wise to them & to the mission to do so" this permission is absolutely useless to relieve the distress here. The Rs. consider it very unwise for them to go home.

6. Erzroom Station has applied to the mission & Prud^l Com. for relief. We have waited with the best patience possible for that relief. The mission action afforded no relief & the P. Com. has taken "no action". The above letter shows that the condition will only be worse. I am ready to sacrifice myself when sacrifice is called for. In the present case I am satisfied that we have unnecessarily sacrificed 2 years too much of time and strength & done great injury to this work. A useless sacrifice is a sin.

Now there are two things open to the Prud^l. Com. Either the immediate recall of Mr. & Mrs. Richardson from Erzroom Station including Erzingan, or or the immediate acceptance of my resignation which I hereby place in the hands of the Com^{tee}. I think I have a right to ask for immediate action on this matter. We have waited for over two years, we can wait two months more, just time to get word from you. Better, if you accept this my resignation, telegraph Mr. Reid & he can inform me by letter.

Mr. Macallum leaves after two days for Marash for the winter. He goes with the full determination to not to return if this question is not settled before spring. It will be a great loss to Erzroom and E.T.M. if he does not return.

If you decide this question at once you can get word to Mr & Mrs R. at Erz^{n} in time for them to leave in Nov. Or I can leave at the same day in case you accept my resignation.

I beg of you Bro. Barton to take immediate action on this. Let no more time be lost & no more injury be done to this work.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom. Aug. 18. 94

Ezroom Sept. 1. 1894.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston,

My dear Dr Barton,

Two weeks ago I wrote you at length about the Ezroom Sta. trouble placing my resignation in the hands of the Pru. Com^tee. placing also a condition. I would now like to remove that condition and simply urge the acceptance of my resignation.

Mardin started an intersessional vote proposing that Mr. Richardson remove to Ezingan till next An. Mtg. without condition. In what we supposed was the recommendation of the mission Ezroom Sta. invited Mr. R. to Ezingan for a year on the understanding that that was to close the question. It was said in the conference over the question that his return to Ezroom, even to An. Mtg., would not be advisable. The Mardin vote has received the following votes in the affirmative Messrs Wheeler Allen (Hpt.) Dewey, Thom, Gates. Cole & Knapp. Mr. Andrus was absent from Mardin & was not heard from, Dr. Barnum did not vote. Mr Allen of Van is not heard from. Mr. Richardson refrains from voting. Mr. Macallum declared himself opposed to the vote though he neglected signing it before he left & I protest against it.

whether this would be considered as carried or not it relegates the question to next An. Mtg. The unrest and uncertainty continue. I therefore most respectfully & urgently plead that my resignation from Erzroom be accepted.

As additional reasons I would urge that the stress through which we have been passing has been injurious to health. I cannot but feel anxious about Mrs. Chambers' health. I fear she has lost nearly all the good she reaped from the visit to Am. & treatment under Dr. Goodell of Phil^{a}. Besides the climate & altitude of Erzroom are severe on her & it will be difficult for her to regain what she has lost under the most favourable circumstances.

There is another reason which under the present financial distress I would not urge were there no other reason for my present action i.e. the more definite drawing of the lines between general work & work for women. ~~I cannot den~~ This is indicated by the action of the meeting at ~~Van~~ Mardin. At the present time it will seriously effect much of the work in Erzroom which might be carried on on the present basis which has been acceptable to the mission for the last few years. I cannot deny that this question lends impetus to my desire to resign. Certainly I may meet the same conditions in other places, but not in the same way.

Allow me to say in addition that Mr. Richardson has made some preparation for removal to Yozgan & he expects to go. Mr. Macallum is now absent. My withdrawal would leave the station and Miss Chambers alone. This certainly would not be advisable. The withdrawal of all the missionaries would have a bad effect indeed on the work & people. I would therefore say that I am quite willing to remain till Spring or till such time as other provision can be made for the occupancy of the station. I would strongly depricate the leaving the Sta. vacant even temporarily. Erzroom in my opinion is equal in importance to any of her sister stations & offers most promising work, though she had difficulties in reference to the work that perhaps other stations have not.

I would also say that I would be very sorry indeed to withdraw from the mission field. By deliberate choice I have devoted my life to Foreign missy. work. But only ~~for~~ the success of the work. Possibly I can best serve that work by withdrawing from it. If therefore I can be assigned to work in some other mission I will be exceedingly grateful.

Again urging that this receive your earliest possible attention & favourable decision, I remain Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

Erzeroum, Sept. 1. 1894.
Rec'd Sept, 24.

INFORMATION SENT TO US BY MR. LANGHANS WHICH HE RECEIVED FROM W. U. CHAMBERS

4-22-95

" Some time ago I reported that Mr. Lenz had passed Chilgani Village on the Alashgird Plain. I have seen a man from that village and elicited the following:

Mr. Lenz arrived in that village one evening a little before sundown. He became a guest with a man named Avak Parsegh. Was in good health and spirits. A number of villagers called to see him and his wonderful machine that evening. He spoke two or three words of Turkish, and made them understand that he came from Persia, and was going to Erzeroum. He left early the next morning. About one month later, the villagers heard that he had been killed in the vicinity of Koord Ali. You will remember that this is one of the three koordish villages in the mountains through which he would have to pass in crossing the mountains to Delababa: It is the first village he would reach in the mountains, and is about five miles from the Armenian village of Zedikan, the last Armenian village on the plain. The information not being definite as to the killing of Mr. Lenz, it was hearsay testimony, and therefore I did not cable it to you. I had already reported his having passed Chilgani.

I would judge that Mr. Lenz reached Chilgani the 9th of May, so in all probability he was killed on the 10th or 11th of that month. He was spoken to at Diadin on the 7th, and would have time to get to Chilgani by the 9th, or at latest the 10th.

W.U.Chambers.

Erzroom Sept. 7. 18[illegible]

To the members of E. T. M.

Dear Brethren,

It is but right that I should acquaint you with
my action in regard to the trouble in Erzroom station. Some of you may possibly think my
[illegible] to be loyal to my colleagues & the mission & the
work in which we are fellow workers. On Aug 18th I forwarded my resignation to the
[illegible] immediate [illegible] action. The [illegible]
[illegible] was the last straw that led me to this. I was convinced that a grave mis-
take was being made when we invited Mr. R. to Erzroom. We did so because we were
[illegible] that it was the opinion of the mission that that was the best thing
[illegible] do. It turns out that we went contrary to the decided opinion
[of] the mission. This vote serves to establish & perpetuate the grave error
[illegible]. My experience & judgement in this matter compelled me
[to] dissent, & the only way [illegible] opened to me was to resign.
On further consideration of the vote however I came to the conclusion

that it   the thought of the mission

[illegible] was to deal with Mr. R. as a member of the mission [illegible]
[illegible] of Erzroom station & the mission had to made disposition
[illegible] nothing [illegible] acceptable to the mission. Besides this
[illegible] R. was making preparation to leave for Erzroom. I therefore [illegible] to
the P. Com. urging the simple acceptance of my resignation & offering
[my] services for Erzroom till such time as [illegible] conditions made
[illegible] the work of the station.

The reasons dictating my action were: 1 First & particularly
the sad trouble in which the station finds itself & the failure to obtain relief
my conviction that the plan proposed will not secure relief or [illegible] for the
[illegible] interests of the work in future. 2. This distress has [illegible] effected
[the] health of us all. I find myself not nearly as rugged and [illegible]
[illegible] & I am convinced that this trouble is the primary cause. Not only
[illegible] I [illegible]. Mrs. Chambers is far back toward the place she
[illegible] 4 years ago when we started for Am. Her time & the expense
[of] her treatment [illegible] all have been greatly lost. Are
[illegible] further perils to health in the [illegible] of this distress unnecessarily
prolonged justifiable? 3. In a letter received some time ago
[it] was indicated that I should have persisted at the beginning of this
trouble if I wished to avoid the odium of driving my associate from
the station. I am free to confess that such an unjust imputation
[is] most galling - all the more so because of its unjustness. When Dr.
[illegible] was here in June '93 [illegible] asked my associate to allow me to with-
draw my resignation as already. I def[illegible]ed to the judgement of my brethren &
placed my resignation in the hands of the mission. Once again I press my
resignation - not I fear the work or have lost hope in Erzroom, but because the
conditions prevailing here have been, are & continue such that it is impossible
for me to discharge [illegible] duty, & I love this work too much to willingly remain
a spectator of the injury accruing to it. I [illegible] to confess that it is with deep
regret that I feel myself compelled to this action & the [illegible] contemplate

severing my connection with Erzroom Sta. & E. T. M. I will hail with devout gladness however relief from this distress & any arrangement that will secure the better prosecution of the work. If it is necessary according to the rules of the mission, that the mission should endorse my resignation I earnestly beg that that will be done.

Very Sincerely
Your fellow worker
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Sept. 4, 94
Rec'd Oct. 2,

[illegible] Sept. [illegible] 74.

[illegible]

[illegible] there [illegible] [illegible] asked [illegible]

[illegible] stated that he had [illegible] the [illegible] of the

[illegible] [illegible] for a year. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] stated [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] in this city.

[illegible]

[illegible] from.

Yours truly

[illegible] Chambers

Sec. pro tem.

receiving any communication from the S.E.F.M.
will hail with much gladness a release from these
duties & any arrangement that will give the
prosecuting the work. If it is necessary according
to the rules of the mission, that the Prudential
endorse my resignation & request, beg that this
be done.

Very Sincerely,
Yours fraternally,
W. N. Chambers

Erzroom, Sept. 5, '94
Rec'd Oct. 2.

Erzroom Sept. 8. 94.

Rev J L Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Barton.

I enclose two notes sent to the stations of the E.T.M. they will explain themselves. I hope it will not be necessary for delay to get a vote of the mission on my resignation. All information is in the hands of the Com. However I have asked Dr. Barnum to start an interstational vote if that seems to him necessary. I mean no discourtesy to the mission. I do hope you will use your influence with the Com. to have my resignation accepted. What provision can be made for the work here I fail to see. that however is for the mission & Pru. Com. to decide. I have been begging for relief for two years & I must have it. I am all "used up" & Mrs Chambers is almost "broken down".

The Rs. are still here. the Macallums passed Trebzond a week ago.

Schools have opened with good promise

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Sept. 8, '94

Rec'd Oct. 2,

Erzroom. Sept. 15. 1894.

Rev J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr Barton,

I have only time for a note giving you word of a tragedy occurring in Passen. On Thursday night last a 35 armed horsemen, supposedly Koords, attacked the village of Todoverin. 15 of them were left to drive off the sheep. 20 of them entered the village & turned their attention to the house of the Pastor Bad. Sukias Avidicians. They opened fire apparently with the thought of terrifying the people. The pastor's wife was hit in the head & died in a short time. Two other women in the house were badly wounded, & one of the pastor's sons slightly. The robbers then withdrew. They did not even drive off the sheep. The pastor was here & he received a telegram last evening of the affair & left early this morning. Mr. Richardson left this afternoon to attend the funeral. It is a terrible thing. In fact the whole country is in a terrible state.

Cholera in Ezingan & three of our people have been carried off by it. Mr. Richardson delays his departure on that account.

I have just received your note about the question of the consul for Aph. I will write with next post as it is nearly post time now.

Our troubles here have been complicated by Miss Chambers action. She is now apparently as deeply offended with us as she was with the Rs. a while ago & refuses to even visit with us. She is now doing what she declared six months ago it was impossible for her to do i.e. live at the Richardsons and attend to the schools. She insisted on difficult change to be made in order to leave the Rs. & get to the school. The school then was not in her hand. Now the school is entirely in her hand & she is living there. I think I must write you at length about this next week as the question is of some importance.

What a dark outlook in the finance question. Some of us ought to leave on that account.

This poor bereaved pastor has been living on a starvation salary. We ought to help him this winter What can we do

Yours very truly
W. W. Chambers.

P.S. I am exceedingly sorry to touch so much on the question of this trouble, but new phases of it come up continually & we are all worn out & exhausted & paralyzed.

I have just [illegible] your [illegible] about the question of the council for Sept. I will write with such pencil as I have handy just now.

Our troubles here have been complicated by Mrs Chambers action. She is now apparently as deeply offended with us as she was with Dr. Bacon while up to [illegible] she was [illegible] with us. She is now doing what she declared it was utterly impossible for her to do i.e. live at the Richardsons and attend to the schools. She is made [illegible] difficult changes. She [illegible] to the school [illegible] her hand now the school is entirely in her hands & she is living there. I think I should write you at length about this which was is the question of some importance.

What are we to think of the [illegible] Society or ought [illegible] blame on that account?

Mr. [illegible] pastor has been living on a starvation salary. He ought to [illegible] What can we do

Yours respectfully
W. H. Chambers

P.S. I am exceedingly sorry [illegible] so much in the [illegible] of the trouble, but the phases of it come up continually & are all [illegible] of [illegible].

Erzroom, Sept. 15. '94
Rec'd Oct. 19.

Erzroom Sept. 22. 1894.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Barton,

I have written Mr. Dwight about the question of a consul for Harpoot. We at Erzroom having enjoyed the privilege of a consular officer's services, don't know just what it would be to be deprived of them. We have found it quite helpful not merely in the matter of protection which I am glad to say has not been often necessary, but in the matter of consultation & advice. The consular officer has a slightly different point-of-view & has a better opportunity of judging how certain things effects the official mind - things that might better be left undone when they have a bad effect on the official mind. A careful and judicious man with broad sympathies for all concerned - the Turk as well as the Arm. & missy. could exert a great a great & beneficial influence in the ~~way~~ field you suggest. His reports of the condition of the country being official & so judged unprejudiced would have greater weight than that of a missy, & would do much to influence the Am. official mind & have good effect on public opinion in Am.

Am. should exert a greater moral influence as a nation than she does. The missionary organization is not sufficient for a means of exerting that influence. Your scheme is a step in the right direction, only be careful of the man. The man you mention seems to be the right man. Besides America should have information of the changes taking place in this part of the world & those that are likely to take place.

The questions, you mention are all of importance. Even a naturalized Am. citizen is entitled to the protection which his citizenship secures. His rights may extend but a year or two, still they are his rights for that time. Property interests are very extensive as you know.

As to the other phase of the question I would venture the opinion that the Hpt. brethren would prefer to retain intercourse with the Govt. either directly or through the Prot. Askabed, except in matters specially pertaining to their citizenship as Ams. The less official foreign interference the better. After the consul establishes friendly relations with the Govt. official he can sometimes render effective service unofficially.

I hope you will succeed in the scheme

& I heartily wish you all success.

I would add a word as to the prospects of the people this winter. The harvest was fairly good but unfortunately it is mostly in the hands of the few. The great bulk of the people have very little. Besides that, last year people sold a very great deal of their substance for bread: clothing, dishes vessels of various kinds, bedding &c &c. This year their condition is to this extent worse than last year, they have nothing to sell & so get food. There of course is no work & no business & no money to be earned. The outlook is darker than it was a year ago. The suffering I fear will be very great. A great many have been unable to lay in any fuel. This says much for such a climate as Erzroom. The Govt. will not be able to do anything.

A vote for 30£. to pay the expenses of Mr. R. at Erzingan was negatived by the mission. Messrs Cole Knapp & Gates voting in the neg. Erzroom cannot bear that expense from the touring fund for it is exhausted. Erzroom would not have sent a family to Ez.n this year on the score of economy - we could not afford it. This expense has been forced & it ought to be met in some other way than from Erzroom funds. What can you say about it?

The cholera is dying out in Ez. & I presume Mr. R. will soon have an open way.

Last week I said I would write you about the question of Miss Chambers' change of front. Her whole action and attitude lately cause us great surprise & sorrow. I have not the slightest objection for her to change her opinion & say she has made a mistake. I do object to her deliberately refusing to have any intercourse with us & not assign any reason for it. She is doing now what she strenuously opposed doing last spring & caused pain & commotion to avoid doing. There is very much less reason for her doing it now than then - in fact there is no reason whatever for it now, & very good reasons for her not doing it now. If she made a mistake last spring she ought to be sure she is not making a ten fold greater mistake now. This added complication would not have set in had this question been settled last spring. I am very sorry indeed for Miss C. I think she will regret her present attitude & action. Her action is ill advised. I am not offended that she refuses to have even social intercourse with us - I regret deeply such a state of affairs - she has every right to choose her friends & intimates. I do think however Christian courtesy is at all times in order.

But I am very tired & heart sick of this whole affair. Members of the mission have expressed great sympathy for Mr. R. in the apparent failure of his life work. That is very good & Christian. But there are others of us who are making a failure of our lives also. I used to think that I was accomplishing something here, but alas! the continuation of this trouble seems to have demonstrated my nonentity. Possibly it may not appear so bad when the clouds pass, but now it is dark enough. I imagine Mr. M. would look back on his four years in Ezroom as lost time.

Would to God we could draw the curtain on this whole affair.

By the way it just occurs to me that the following extract fr. Ezm. Sta. minutes might be of interest.

"Whereas we have been given to understand by Rev. J. K. B. of Hpt. who passed thro. Ezm. on his way to Am. that the mission, at least unofficially, reccommended, that Mr. R. be offered an opportunity to go to Ezm. for a year, &

Whereas this reccommendation is in accordance with the advice of the ex. Com. here. therefore

Resolved that we heartily accept this reccommendation and hereby invite Mr. R. with his family to go to Ezm. for the ~~spec~~ time specified.

In the discussion the judgement was expressed that that would end the matter as far as Ezm was concerned. His return to Ezm. would not be advisable. This was Mr Brown's idea also who acted for the mission in making the reccommendation. We made no effort to deprive Mr R. of any right. We tried to act fairly to 1. the work, 2. him & 3 to ourselves. The work & ourselves were entitled to fair play as well as Mr. R. There was no spite on our part. The question was too sadly serious to admit of spite. Our arrangement (great blunder that it was) would have ended the question. The Mardin vote keeps the "ball rolling". Besides the Mardin vote was entirely uncalled for & irregular & rather a slap at us.

But enough.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

Rev. W. N. Chambers.
Erzroom, Sept. 22, '94
Rec'd Oct. 18.

Erzroom. Oct. 3. 1893.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Barton,

I am sorry to say anything more about our troubles. I started a letter to you about three weeks ago on a certain phase of the question. I let it lie hoping I could persuade myself not to finish it. I have concluded that as the final adjustment of this question rests with you at Boston it is but right that you should know this & what light it may throw on this question. In this I wish to make no charge, only to let you know how the question appears to me.

Allow me to say that there has been no interchange of even social courtesies between us on the one side, and the K.s on the other. In justice to ourselves I would say we have done all we could to re-establish social relations or rather I should say keep them up. I can quite well see why the K.s would think they could not return our advances. But I am completely at a loss to know why Miss C. should pursue that course. In our efforts to re-establish intercourse she said she could take no other course but that of "keeping entirely away" from us. There was nothing for us to do but to keep away. She gave no reasons for her action. What we have done to so offend her as to lead her to this course I cannot understand. I am perfectly sure we have not transgressed to such an extent as to require the suspension of all Christian courtesies.

You know that all the schools were in my care during the school year of '93-'94. When Miss C. arrived I did my best to make her feel that I was working for her. It was decided after full consultation that the schools should remain in my hands to allow her every opportunity for the study of the language. I did my best to make her feel that the schools were hers & that I was temporarily doing her work. I assured her & my associates that I was ready to pass over the work whenever it was thought best that I should do so. I consulted with her freely and did many things on her suggestion that I would not have done on my own judgement simply because I was doing her department of work & I judged it but right that I should put the schools in the shape she would want them when they would pass to her hands.

At the same time two of the teachers were in our house (there was no boarding dept). They cooked on our stove & used our light & I had asked Mrs Chambers to have a supervision of them. Mrs. Chambers in this was acting for me. The supervision of them, though in our house & they were cooking in our stove was offered to Miss C., but was left at the school. Later when Miss C. came to our house to room & board the transfer of the care of the girls was arranged for. We thought things were going on smoothly enough as far as the schools were concerned & our relations with Miss C. Suddenly we were made aware of the fact that she was deeply offended so that she would scarcely exchange a civil "good morning" though eating with the Macallums at our table. With the greatest difficulty we finally found out that she was offended because she felt that we had usurped her work, & were keeping her out of it & were unwarrantably interfering with her. All arrangements had been made with her *full* *consent* & *approval* as far as we knew, & we knew it by her personal assent to it all. We had done everything we could to make things as pleasant and profitable for Miss C. as possible. Where our fault lies (or I should say *mine* for Mr. Chambers had little or nothing to do with it & is worthy of little if any blame) I cannot yet imagine. However I can now see that a person with the disposition Miss C. has, with the Station troubles being as they were & are she would be very much more easily effected by little things than I supposed probable especially after she surrendered herself to the Rs. influence so completely as she has done latterly. The moment she

she became intimate with them her manner to us changed. In our efforts to reestablish pleasant relations she told us by note that she had come to the conclusion that the only course open to her was to keep entirely away. We have visited her since, but she has not come near us.

From her point of view I may have transgressed the proprieties in the matter of the schools. I am quite conscious of the fact that I did my best to avoid even the appearance of evil. Besides it must not be forgotten that she was new to the field & it is somewhat unusual for a new missionary to take work in full charge on reaching the field — & before getting any knowledge of the language. The fact is we probably went beyond bounds in not enforcing the rule of the new manual in reference to new missionaries. As I say above I may have transgressed in some ways & in Miss C's. eyes. It was entirely unconscious however on my part. I made no effort whatever to keep control of work & keep her or anyone else out of their legitimate dept. That I acted "insincerely" that I was "self-willed" & "imperious" that I acted "unfairly" I indignantly deny. I may act erroneously, I do not act insincerely. I may try to do the work assigned me to the best of my ability & fail, I do not try to usurp other peoples work. I may have decided opinions I do not try to force them on others. I judge that much of this is due to the strained feelings and the unfortunate turmoil & agitation to which we have all been subjected & I would say nothing about it in the hope it would right itself. Last spring when we found Miss C. feeling as she did, both Mrs. Chambers & myself sought interviews with Miss C. & expressing our sorrow apologized for anything wherein we may have offended. Some time later she wrote a note apologizing for some of her words & actions. We hoped the question was passed. She appeared up to the time she started to Erzingan last summer with Mr. R. On her return she was changed & we have not been able to have intercourse with her. I am absolutely in the dark as to wherein we have offended or for the reason for this change. Added to the other troubles it is most painful & the impression to the people is very bad & of course will cause misjudgement of us all.

I feel most deeply the embarrassment of the situation - the responsibility devolving upon me as the responsible party of the station - in a sense responsible for Miss C's. comfort & welfare. How can I discharge it when she says she must keep entirely away & keeps away. She has asked my advice on one thing during the month. - that was the other day. I think Miss C. has acted in this matter without due thought & I hope she may see difficulty in time. I felt you ought to have the information. I understand she has asked for a transfer. Certainly she must have given her reasons. Her relations with us must enter into those reasons.

Again may I urge my resignation. This added to all the rest of this sad imbroglio has filled this Erzroom atmosphere that it becomes very oppressive. Besides I may not be the one to remain here. It may be that my peculiarities have so developed that my associates have a hard time with me. If I in any way injure this work then in God's name accept my resignation & let me depart.

Yesterday we (Mrs C. & myself) decided that we should put the R.s. on the road. At parting a most painful thing took place. Mrs. C. offered to kiss Mrs R. good bye. Mrs R. indignantly drew back saying "no, you have driven us out of the station. You have blackened my character &c". It was a most terrible ending to a terrible two weeks. The shock to Mrs C. was very heavy. I am heart sorry for the R.s. It is a terrible experience for them. May God be with them. But some of the last things they have done are in my judgement entirely inexcusable.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly W. N. Chambers.

Rev. W. N. Chambers,
Erzroom, Oct. 3, 1894.
Rec'd filed Oct. 30,

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J. L. B.
Rec'd 11-5
Ans'd

11/5

Erzroom Oct 13. 1894.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston

My dear Dr Barton,

Last week I wrote you once again about Ezm. affairs. Possibly had I had a month's patience instead of three week's patience I should not have written that letter. I am very glad to say that the situation has been somewhat relieved. The very day after the Rs. left Miss Ce. was approachable. She was not very well & let us know Mrs. Ce. went at once & was pleasantly received. She has not been well all week & has accepted very pleasantly our offers of assistance. She has been quite free to call ~~us~~ in for advice & assistance in the school which I have been very glad to render. No reference has been made to the past & we do not propose to call it up if it can be avoided. But not knowing wherein we offended before we feel as if we were walking on eggs & one of them may break at any moment. Miss Ce's. note to which I referred last week in which she declared that the only course open to her was to keep away entirely makes her present action "passing strange". It has a strange appearance all round, & will increase speculation on the part of the people. However we are very thankful for so much more of this unseemly spectacle that has been before the eyes of the people for so long. May God grant that this is a permanent change. We have felt a very great relief during this week. The departure of the Rs. together with this change in Miss Le's attitude has lightened the awful burden greatly. It now remains for Providence & time to somewhat rectify the wrong impressions of the people.

I am persuaded that the Rs. believe that I through personal spite have done my best to force them out of the station. Whether they intended it or not, their whole course during the last few months, & more especially for the last few weeks has been well calculated to give & strengthen that impression in the minds of some of the people. We were forced to be silent spectators of all that was being done. What they did & the attitude they assumed were were calculated to work on the oriental imagination & arouse sympathy for the wronged and persecuted. I hear it reported that some of the brethren here have given the Rs. a letter of recommendation.

We are trying to pursue the course of quietly doing our work & allow the question to quiet down & die out as far as possible.

Possibly it is partly reaction from the previous strain, but Mrs. Chambers has had to spare herself much this week & will have to for some time to come. Miss Chambers is again recovering from what appear to be another attack of malaria. However she has taken care of herself for a week & she seems to be well on to recovery again.

The strain on the R's. has been very trying & I earnestly hope they may be preserved in health. You remark in your note today that your note to them may induce them to go to the U.S. this fall. When they left here a week ago they had no thought of such a thing & had apparently made all preparation to remain in Erzingan.

Had the question gone as the brethren in Mardin decided it would have been all right - but it didn't. We will wait with what patience we may till the question is settled.

Will it be possible to make another appeal for famine relief. Prices are down somewhat but in some places the distress will be much greater than last year.

With very kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers

P.S. If I am to continue pro tem to act as clerk of the mission please have the address changed from Mr. Macallum's name to mine for convenience here.

Rev. W. N. Chambers

Erzroom Oct. 13, 1894.

Erzroom. Oct. 20. 94.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr Barton.

I wrote you last week. But we hear that the post was robbed & possibly the letters lost. I wish to give you the gist of my letter for fear it may not reach you. I wrote you previously to the effect that there was difficulty between Miss C. & us. I am glad to say that the day after the Ro. left Miss C. changed her "keep entirely away" course & we were able to reestablish intercourse. She had in a note to us that the only course open to her was to "keep entirely away." Why this was necessary for we do not know, why she decided to abandon that course & come near we do not know, nor have we questioned, nor do we intend to. We are glad that a great obstacle is removed which stood in the way of duty. I do hope the winter may pass this way & that we all may get a little good of this embroglio & offset a little of the evil. Miss C. is troubled somewhat with malaria & is not feeling well. She is boarding with us & I think this is much better for her.

The Herald brings us sad news. I wonder if that will that help along my resignation. Do think of that side of the question. You know how it is.

Rev. W. N. Chambers

Erzroom Oct. 20 1894.

Economise by lessening the foreign force. Let me have the salary of my two associates to use in this work & better work will be done than the three of us could possibly do under this retrenchment forced upon us. That is an example the meaning of which is give my salary to either one of my associates or both of them (I am only thinking of what appears my duty) or any one else that may be selected & let the work be carried on. If for no other reason you can accept my resignation on the financial & health grounds.

How about famine relief? Prices are down a little, but the probability of suffering is greater than it was last year. In Khanoos the crops were not good & greatly injured by frost - the outlook is dark. If help can be sent even a little we will rejoice.

We hope the meeting was a good one. We await with impatience its report.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W.N. Chambers.

P.S. The Koords have been restrained somewhat. A number of the leading robbers are in the prison here & the land has a little rest.

Erzroom, Oct. 20, 1894.
Rec'd Dec "

Ans'd

Erzroom Oct. 27. 94.

Rev. J. L. Barton
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton.

I have only a word today & will make it short. For a long time there have been various rumors afloat of most serious state of affairs ~~north~~ west of our nearest southern sister station. Our associates in B. are all right. But things have been very bad. 1876 has been repeated. This on very good authority. Possibly you have already heard & know more than we do.

Many leading Koords are here in prison apparently as an offset to cover up red tracks. You may be sure of much.

Miss C. is still badly under the grip of malaria.

With kindest regards.

Yours very sincerely
W. N. Chambers.

This allusion of place is to Bitlis where we have missionaries.

Erzroom, Oct. 27, 1894.

Rec'd Nov.

No III

J. L. B.
Rec'd 12-10
Ans'd 14

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III

(Erzroom) Nov. 16. 1894.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Smith,

Through the report of the mtg. of the Board we understand you are back at your work greatly recuperated. We are glad to know of the benefit derived from your vacation & wish you continued good health.

We were glad to know of the pleasant nature of the Madison meeting notwithstanding the $116000 debt. That the decision was that there was to be no further retreat was encouraging. Our earnest prayer is that the Lord may so bless as to make the decision effective.

While we deeply regret the failing strength of the venerable & beloved Dr Clarke, we would at the same time heartily congratulate you on your new associate.

I regret that my first letter to you at this time should be a wail. But the condition of this apparently God forsaken, I had almost said God cursed land allows of little else. Possibly you have heard from other sources of the Sasoon massacre.

I would judge that the Bitlis mail has been subjected to careful censorship & possibly the brethren there may not have been able to report you. So I will give you a few of the stories I have heard from reliable sources. One thing is clear that 1876 is left in the shade.

¶ Last year the Talvori Armenians successfully resisted the attacks of the neighboring Koords. the country became very unsettled. this year the Govt. interfered & sent detachments of regular soldiers to put down the Armenians. These were assisted by the Koordish Hamedieh. The Armenians were attacked in their mountain fastnesses & were finally reduced by the failure of supplies - both of food & ammunition.

About a score of villages were wiped out of existence - people slaughtered & houses burned.

A number of able bodied young Armenians were captured, bound, covered with brush wood and burned alive.

A number of Armenians variously estimated but less than a hundred surrendered themselves & plead for mercy. Many of them were shot down on the spot & the remainder were dispatched with sword & bayonet.

A lot of women – variously estimated from 60 to 160 in number – were shut up in a church, and the soldiers were "let loose" amongst them. Many were outraged to death & the remainder despatched with sword & bayonet.

A lot of young women were collected as spoils of war. Two stories are told. 1 That they were carried off to the harems of their Moslem captors. 2. That they were offered Islam & the harems of their Moslem captors, refusing they were slaughtered.

Children were placed in a row one behind the other & a bullet fired down the line, apparently to see how many could be dispatched with one bullet.

Infants & small children were piled one on the other & their heads struck off.

Houses were surrounded by soldiers, set on fire & the inmates forced back into the flames at the point of the bayonet as they tried to escape.

But this is enough of the carnage of death. Estimates vary from 3000 to 8000 of the number of persons massacred. These are sober estimates. Wild estimates place the number as high as 20000 & 25000.

This all took place during the latter

part of August & Sept. The arrival of the Commander-in-chief of the 4th Army Corps put a stop to the carnage. It is to be noted that the massacres were perpetrated by regular soldiers for the most part under command of officers of high rank. This gives this affair a most serious aspect.

A Christian does not enjoy the respect accorded to street dogs. If this massacre passes without notice it will simply become the declaration of the doom of the Christians. There will be no security for the life, property or honor of a Xn. A week ago last Tuesday evening at sundown a Turk kidnapped the wife of a wealthy Armenian merchant of the town of Khanoos Pert. Next morning her ~~cry~~ cries were overheard by searchers & she was rescued from a Turkish house - No redress is possible. Bitlis friends are in a dangerous position. Foreigners have as little to hope as the native Xn. The friends in B. are entirely unprotected. In this city we are comparatively safe. Van is comparatively safe also.

I would judge the Govts. Br. & U.S. are fully informed as to these things. I simply write to call your attention) to massacres & to assure you of the fact.) Wild rumors have been abroad for a long time. But trustworthy ~~stories~~ information came to hand slowly. Every thing has been done to hush it all up. Some of the minor details of ~~what~~ the stories I have ~~said~~ told above may not be exact, but I feel quite certain they are in the main. However, that a cruelly barbarous, & extensive massacre of Christians by regular soldiers assisted by Koordish Hamedieh under command of officers of rank & responsibility cannot be disputed. (I trust you already have more exact & extensive information in hand. In case you have not I write this.)

What now will the Christian ~~west~~ world do?

(Last post brot. letters of inquiry concerning an American bycilist - Mr. Frank Lenz - who on his way around the world was last heard of at Tabreez. The English Consul here - Mr Graves - instituted enquiries & found news of him at Diadin a place some hours this side of the Persian border. He was there on May 7th. Nothing further has been heard of him. In all likelyhood he fell a victim at the hands of the Koords who were very restless at that time. Or he may have been lost in one of the many mountain streams — deep & violent at that time of year — he would have to ford. Further inquiry is being made. The inquiries came from C. H. Petticord, Pittsburg Pa. & John J. Purinton, East Liverpool, Ohio.

We were greatly encouraged for several days by the good improvement Miss Chambers seemed to be making in her health. She felt herself able to remove to her own rooms in the girls school, though not to resume her work. She had been with us in our house for a couple of weeks. Sudden chill & fever yesterday, repeated today makes us feel a little discouraged as to her speedy recovery & resumption of work. On the departure of the Rs. for Erzingan pleasant relations were re-established between Miss C. & us & they have continued so ever since. I am sincerely grateful for this much. I am still in ignorance as to the reasons of the late unpleasantness between us. Miss C. found it impossible to continue school work on account of her health. Mrs. C. tried to assist her, but she found she was not strong enough, & had to desist. Then Miss C. passed the entire care of the schools to me. You can imagine that my hands are very full. I now have in hand the work that three men did last year.

The schools are in fairly good state. We sadly need more money to make them more efficient. The number of scholars in the Primaries & Higher schools have considerably increased. The Kindergardens however have decreased. This for two reasons. 1. From the two Kindergardens about 20 pupils were graduated into the Primaries. The places of these have not yet been filled. 2. The Gregorians are putting forth every effort to establish a Kindergarden school. The Bishop has done everything in his power to prevent the people from sending to our schools & has succeeded in getting a few away. ~~Nott~~ Notwithstanding this we have a little over 200 pupils in all the schools.

The brethren of the community are quiet. But I am very sorry to say the spiritual condition is not at all what it ought to be. Because of this extra work devolving upon me I find myself unable to visit much amongst the people. Besides this the farther we get away in time from the late active state of the station troubles the more blighting in every way I feel them to have been. This thought is exceedingly oppressive.

I wrote Miss Dr. Kimball of Van inviting her to come & visit us & if possible spend the winter with us. I urged the invitation on two grounds. First & foremost on the need of medical advice & treatment. We were very anxious & still are quite anxious about Miss Chambers' health. Something serious appears buz in the way this malaria - as we suppose - is affecting her. Skillful treatment just now may insure her health, the lack of it may send her to Am. Besides Mrs. Chambers is not at all as strong as I would like to see her. She is not nearly as able to endure as she was last winter. It would be a great comfort to have Dr Kimball's medical advice. Second, if Dr. K. should elect to remain here for the winter she could do much with her experience in the schools in assisting Miss Chambers, or possibly in doing her work. I have not had a reply from her yet. Our little girl, Kate, seems to have gotten the upper hand of her malady & is keeping pretty well. Talcott however is considerably troubled with malaria. He is taking a tonic which seems to do him good.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

P.S. Miss C. has had a heavy renewal of the chills & fever three days in succession & she fears greatly the severe winter in her illness

Erzroom Nov. 16, 1894.

Dr. V.

C. H. D.
c'd 12.13.94
s'd.

W. N. Chambers

Erzroom Nov 22. '94

Rev C. H. Daniels D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Daniels,

Your letter of Oct 26. with enclosure received. I enclose the reply to you as you will be interested to know what news has been received & it will save my time in writing it over again. Please read & forward to Mr. Langhams. It is very sad. But if young men will run such risks they ought to inform those residing on the route - either the Consuls or missionaries that such a mishap as this could be known in time. hree men have gone around the world on wheels. Their going does not make the oad safe. Just now the road is comparatively safe. In a week it may be ll a man's life is worth to pass over it. he Koords are under restraint just

just now. If the Sasoon horrors are not noted soon that restraint wi be removed & the Koords as bad a ever again.

If you are writing the grief stri mother please express my deep sympathy with her.

Yours very truly
W. U. Chambers.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 12-13
Ans'd PV

Erzroom Nov. 23. 1894.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Smith,

Last week I wrote you of the reports circulated here of the cruelties practiced in the mts. west of Bitlis. I presume you had the news before. You may be sure that '76 only equaled this in the number of victims - not in the horribleness of it.

This week I write you about ourselves. I have no word from you as yet about my resignation. The delay is of little account, if the decision will be favourable! Certainly the question is an ever present one to my mind & I have tried to look at it from all sides, & watched for new light. Possibly my first letter was written under the pressure of strong feeling. The second one was not however. And although the whole affair is an ever present pain to us, yet I think that I have been able to calmly look at the question in its various aspects. Since the Rs. left relations with the people have not been marked by anything out of the ordinary. There have been very few references of note to the troubles; much less has there been any opposition of any kind shown such as Mr. Richardson confidently prophisied there would be. Yet there are not wanting indications to show that some of the people have become strongly prejudiced against me as acting unjustly and in an unchristian spirit towards the Rs. The people cannot understand my position, & I certainly cannot explain it to them without going into detail which cannot be thought of for a moment. They judge that a simple acknowledgment & begging of pardon are sufficient to cover all shortcomings offences. They cannot understand why association should not continue. A Christian is, or ought to be, a Christian & there should be no incompatibility of temper. They therefore consider me wanting in Christian charity. They understand that I drove my associates away, while I might by a word have prevented their going. I am therefore wanting in Christian generosity. It is very hard for them to eliminate the element of self-interest from action, & consider it perfectly natural for a man to return what he receives. I have therefore acted from selfishness & spite. Not only so, but being strong willed, I am overbearing. I imagine that is catalogue enough against myself. My wife also is involved as deeply as myself — possibly a little deeper. We acknowledge our sins, and our iniquities are ever before us. God knows we have sins enough to condemn us, & possibly we have done wrong in some respects in this affair. But our consciences do not tell us so, & we feel ourselves unjustly judged by the people — & some *other* people also. Now the course pursued by our associates was such as to develop & confirm the people in this their judgement. Even those who had had every confidence in me were led to feel that I might have done differently. Apparently all the people are familiar with the details of the affair from the R's. standpoint. And they (the R's. more particularly Mrs. R.) did everything possible to develop sympathy assuming an ~~f~~ injured-martyr attitude & showing grief on all possible occasions. The sympathy of the people was thus greatly aroused, even their losses financially involved in their moving & selling furniture became matter of considerable remark. In addition to this I have it on the best authority that they (the R's.) said to the people in *so many words* that the Macallums left because they feared *greater troubles with us* in the future.

Now I have to remain silent for the most part. I confess that I indignantly denied the assertion concerning the Macallums' departure. I perceived at once that there arose the question of whose word was to be taken as exact. This state of things is such it cannot be overcome by silent living. The people cannot become satisfied till some things are verbally explained to them. I insist that they had no right to interfere or be taken into confidence, yet I must say that it was impossible for there not to be interested. They are not to be harshly blamed. For the success of this work their confidence & good will are necessary. I believe in close cooperation between the people & missionary - that is necessary to the true success of this work. That is impossible without confidence and good will. I feel I had it once. I have it not now. My usefulness is very greatly impaired. My best work is poor enough, but handicapped as I feel myself now - I am next to useless. This is one reason sufficient for my withdrawal. Add to this the effect on ~~Bah~~ myself, the whole affair is so oppressive that it saps one's energy & we need all our unimpaired forces for this work.

I have already mentioned Uncle's. health. The strain upon her has been very severe. I am sorry to say that I am not reassured as to the probability of her recuperating here. This climate is trying to her in the best of health - now it is oppressive. The Drs. would know that. I only judge from what I daily see. She is far fr. strong.

It is not without sincere sorrow I would contemplate with-drawal from the mission field. But I have always tried to keep before myself the truth that the "field is the world" & my own personal preferences are not the basis on which to decide such a question. The stations in our mission are all full. My brother says he wants helps in the Nicomedia field. While it would be a delight to renew those pleasant & we believe profitable association in work, which we enjoyed while in Erzroom together, yet the financial problem, I would judge, would only confirm the W.B.M. in its policy of not increasing its missionary force. I therefore have, after careful & long consideration, deliberately come to the conclusion that my withdrawal from here is the proper thing to do even if it involves our return to America.

Quite possibly by this time you have come to some judgement on the matter. But I felt it my duty to let you know further how the question appears to me after the passage of about three months. I do most earnestly urge that you decide the question favourably & at the earliest possible day. If the question is referred to the mission may I urge that the subject of supply for Erzroom be taken into early consideration. It is simply possible that the mission might consider the advisibility of reinstating Mr. R. on my withdrawal. Under the circumstances it is not for me to express an opinion on that matter. But I would judge that it will come forward.

I am sorry to say that Miss Chambers health continues to give us anxiety. She has had return of chills & fever. The quarantine physician here strongly advised her not to spend the winter here. She proposed to go if the school-boarding dept. should be closed & the boarders sent to their homes. This seemed to me a most unwise course for various reasons which I need not mention here. The question of closing was discussed in Executive Com. mtg. The native brethren advised very strongly against it. Thereupon Miss C. decided to remain. There was not sufficient reason for her to remain. She is able to do very little in the school & I fear she will not be able to do more. We could have made arrangements for the conduct of the school in her absence. She is still in our house & I trust she will decide to remain if she does not leave for Trebizond.

It is due to the more influential portion of the community that the above remarks refer to them only to a limited extent. But a caravan cannot make more rapid traveling than the slowest animal in it can go. That portion of the community which cannot look beneath appearances has to be considered & they need greater conciliation than the more judicious portion. The letter written to the Mardin meeting was not with the knowledge of five or six or more of the influential men.

I am sorry to write this again, but you should have all possible information. Let me say that I mean to make no charges against my associates. I try to give you what appears to me to be facts of the situation as far as they are necessary to affording light on the situation.

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Nov. 23, 1894.
Rec'd Dec. 13.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 12-22
Ans'd

Erzroom Nov. 26. 1894.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr Smith

Your favors, one of Oct. 26. to me, to Erzroom Station, & to the Mission of Oct 30 & 31. came to hand with last post.

I would repeat my congratulations on the favourable results of your trip to Europe & add my word of welcome to you as you return to your duties. Your announcement caused us no little surprise for the ~~matter~~ thought had not occurred to us that such a change might be. I will remember with pleasure these years of correspondence & work with you & I would like to express my appreciation of & thanks for all your kindnesses to us & efforts in behalf of this work. While saying goodbye to you as Cor: Sec. for E.T.M. we rejoice that you are still at your post & will have the same lively interest in this work & us, & we also are glad that you have consigned the mission to such good hands.

I wrote you last week about the questions effecting Erzroom Station. I am sure these questions will receive your careful consideration as soon as possible & may I again urge upon you the desirability of the of the acceptance of my resignation & the making of other arrangements for the conduct of Ezroom. But *do not leave the station unoccupied*.

I forward by this mail abstracts of your letters of Oct. 30 & 31, to the stations of the mission.

Miss Chambers is apparently a little better. She is attempting some work — but is not strong. Mrs. Chambers is forced to confine herself to her household duties & the children & the woman's & girl's S. School in our house. She formerly was able to visit a good deal & so pick up a good many recruits for the S.S. But she finds it too much for her this year.

With very kindest regards & earnest wishes for your continued good success in your work.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all.

Erzroom, Nov. 26, 1887.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 12-22
Ans'd

Erzroom Nov. 29. 1894.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

My dear Dr Barton

This week's post brot. letters from Dr. Smith in one of which he announces the assignment of E.T.M. to your secretarial care. Allow me to heartily congratulate you on your appointment as Dr. Clarke's successor & just as heartily welcome you as Sec. for E.T.M. I wish you all success and pleasure in your work. I imagine your old fellow workers will look upon you in the old light - at any rate whatever the office we are all fellow workers. May God's presence be ever with you.

I wrote once again to Dr. Smith before I received his announcement. I trust these Erzroom questions will receive your early attention. I am sorry indeed that your first problem should be this trial. I do most earnestly hope the Com. will think favourably of my withdrawal. We are "drifting" along. But this is not what ought to be. It is a deep regret indeed that my reputation as ~~an~~ Christian is so discounted in the eyes of some and to some extent in eyes of the majority. They at least think that I might have "gotten along some way". My own conscience does not accuse me. May I beg you to open the way for my withdrawal, only

I would charge you don't think of leaving Ezroom vacant for any length of time - however short.

I am sure you will excuse me for enclosing this in a note to Dr. Smith - to save postage. I am paying both mission & station as well as private correspondence from my own pocket & as I am alone there is a good deal to be done - & a piaster is a piaster.

Mrs. Chambers joins me in my warmest regards & best wishes to yourself & Mrs. Barton.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 1-8-95
Ans'd 1-9-95

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Erzroom Dec 5. 1894.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston

My dear Dr Barton.

Your favors of Nov. 1st & 8th came with last post. I have carefully noted the contents. As I said in my note to you of last week I heartily sympathize with you that this Ezm. embroglio is about the first question you have to grapple with in your new work. May you have the guidance of the Lord.

I note the request of the Pru. Com. I feel deeply the great increase of responsibility that request lays upon me. Would to God I could at once accede & say no more about it. But I trust you will bear with me patiently while I say a word more. Possibly I may be acceding - I hope I am.

I feel that I have prayerfully & conscientiously tried to do my duty to all & everything concerned. It is impossible that my course has been without mistake. The circumstances in which we were placed often made it impossible to do the best thing at all times, though we did our utmost to do our best. Our record is behind us & we stand by it. i.e. we (Mrs. C. & I) have done our best.

You remember my first letter of resignation

I conditioned my remaining on the withdrawal of the Rs. Later I changed that removing the condition & urging it on the basis of the circumstances as they would effect me & the work devolving upon me.

I wrote Dr. Smith at some length two weeks ago giving my present convictions on the question I would call your attention to that letter emphasizing what I say there.

I recognize what you say of the Armenian mind. But reconciliation is usually brot. about by a go-between. Explanations are necessary. Otherwise acquiescence is merely accepting the inevitable under protest. They remain of the same opinion & this has no small effect on them more particularly if extraordinary circumstances attend the offence. An ordinary affair may be passed over & virtually forgotten. But this is altogether extraordinary. In this affair remember the persons involved - missionaries, preachers of the love of Christ - leaders in the church. At least ordinary Christian courtesy should have been manifested by such people toward each other. Not only was that impossible, but at the moment of parting there could not be said a decent "God be with you" - much less a cordial farewell. This did not all occur within the walls of the mission house, but, as it were, in the

I think I wrote you of this painful scene when we went to push the Rs. on the middle of the public street. Now all this was such, as not merely to scandalize, but give such a shock & work such injury as that very much more than *ordinary means* are necessary to overcome it. The withdrawal of the Rs. affords us *some* relief, but it by no means rectifies the trouble.

You say the action of the Com. is in condemnation of none, nor in vindication of any. I do not ask for the condemnation of my associate, nor do I hint at a vindication, nor have I any thought of making capital out of this action. Yet the very fact that I ask for no vindication & none is proposed, nor do I think it would be best for the work here, is one reason & in my mind an exceedingly strong one why I should be allowed to withdraw. The reputation of Mrs. C. & myself has been dragged in the mire I might say trampled under foot in the mud. We have been forced into positions where & our action has appeared *unchristian* & so interpreted. We have no way of righting that impression - of disabusing the minds of those who were influenced, some to a very partisan position toward us & belief concerning us. This is a real offence in the minds of some - weak & ignorant they may be - but we must consider the weak & not be a stone of stumbling to any. Were we able to live unhampered lives we might be able to overcome this prejudice to some extent in the passage of time. Yet there would always attach to us the odium of having treated our associates in an unjust & unchristian manner, & had made no proper effort to rectify the wrong. I think you will see that nothing short of a "vindication" would set me right here, & make it possible for me to do the work I am sent to do. For my wife's reputation I would like a vindication, my own, if I leave, is of no account. But from the standpoint of the work an attempt would not be desirable. It is better to let ~~my~~ our reputations go, & make other arrangements for this work. To do good work here a man's Christian character should be absolutely above suspicion.

You will therefore see that as the question lies in my mind, it is not a question of a quieting down of the people. They are quiet enough. The most partisan is friendly enough to all appearance. I do not believe there is one who would offer me the slightest disrespect. But there is this malarial atmosphere — a blighting doubt — to some a real fact that cannot be explained away because my mouth is closed. This being the case former confidence is impossible & cooperative work almost ineffective. With humble gratitude I can say that formerly I had a strong hold on all this people. That influence is now at a minimum.

So much for the people. Look at the question from the side of the effect on myself. Feeling what I do as stated above, I am free to confess that I have not the heart to go ahead & do what ought to be done here. In fact I cannot. Not only so, but the deep sense of humiliation & shame begotten by the whole affair saps every effort of all energy. I cannot do - not my best - but even good work. I cannot be true to myself. I cannot be true to the people & discharge my duty toward them. I cannot be true to the Board & churches. In short I cannot be true to the great work entrusted to me. We are drifting along this winter, but a solution will not come of this kind of drifting.

You will therefore bear with me when I say that while I would be glad to take the expressed wish of the Com. as my orders & end the matter, I feel myself compelled to urge my position. In my second letter of resignation I said I would be willing to hold on till arrangement for supply be made. May I not hope that your "remain there for the present at least" may mean till next an. Mtg.?

Let me add concerning myself. My brother has written saying that he must have help or "go to the wall," if I leave here he would like me to go there. I would be delighted to renew my association with him, but I said I had no hope that the W.F.M. because of the financial question, if for no other reason, would entertain such a proposition. I therefore have deliberately made choice of the alternative of return to Am. rather than remain here. I would be sorry to leave the missionary life & work - but this is neither. Do give give me hope of relief within six or eight months.

A word in reference to the Rs. I presumed that spring would see them still in Zn. Allow me to say that notwithstanding your proposition to them to return to U.S. in early spring I fully expect to see Mr. R. if not Mrs R. also at An. Mtg. I would call your attention to this fact that their remaining in Zn. this winter will establish the same condition there that holds here. Not only so but a brisk correspondence with native sympathizers here is keeping will keep the question ever green. Unfortunately the other day as I was doing up the post, Miss C. placed in my hands some letters to go in the Zn. envelope. To reduce weight & save postage she removed the envelopes. My eye caught a marginal P.S. in one note from a young man who has interested himself greatly in the Rs. affairs. It read, "Miss Chamber is buried in Mr. Chamber home, I fear you were altogether deceived by her words". You may be sure writ

Sat. Morn. Rockford in further agitation.

the promotion of such correspondence the question will not by any means die out. Their removal was a great relief, but it does not settle the question. This correspondence will very well serve their purpose. You may have to deal with these either in Ezn. or Ezm. next autumn.

Will you allow me a word in reference to Miss C. Will you please refresh your memory by glancing at your P.S. to your letter of Nov. 1. Allow me to thank you for your kind advice & also to assure you that "special effort to win her co-operation" was made by us from the outset & all along - with the single exception of the time a boycott was put upon us, extending from the return of Miss C. & Mr. R. from Erzingan in Aug. to the time of the R's departure in Oct. Up to the day she started for Ezn. she was friendly with us. From the day of her return a change was apparent. As we attempted to approach her she treated us ~~with~~ - to say the least - with rudeness - giving Mrs. Chambers a sudden & cruel shock. We simply had to accept the situation. I had no opportunity of offering "suggestions" except in Com. meetings which were only a strain dreaded ~~strain~~ by me. I saw things getting into a tangle & could do nothing till I was called in at the last to straighten some things out.

In addition I have the best reason for believing that there was a determination to keep us - more particularly Mrs. Chambers - out of the school. *The people knew this, we did not till lately.* Wherein we offended during her absence at Erzingan I can't imagine. That she was friendly & had social intercourse with us up to the day she left for Erzingan is a fact. That she was absolutely exclusive from the day she returned - except in receiving some visits when she was sick - is also a fact. I can only explain it by supposing that the Rs. influenced her unduly. That trip to Erzingan evidently developed more than malaria in her system.

The Boycott ended with the departure of the Rs. Miss C. was not well & sent up for a lemon. In place of the lemon Mrs C. went down. Seizing that first opportunity she (Mrs. Chambers) ~~had~~ has done all in her power to make things pleasant & comfortable for her (Miss C). We have done what we could "to win her cooperation". We have avoided just as far as possible all conversation about the trouble. We have not even hinted that we would be glad of ~~th~~ an explanation of her rude treatment & strange notes. She seems to be not unhappy & shows no signs of restraint - in fact is very cordial indeed. At present she is boarding & sleeping in our house, in fact living in our family. At this present moment, with evident enthusiasm & pleasure, she is assisting Mrs Chambers to arrange the presents for the S.S. Xmas tree.

When she became unwell I assumed at her request nominal control of the entire school. It was nominal because I simply tried to run it along as I presumed she had planned. I could not do that to the full extent. Where I could I did; where I could not I let things drift. She is taking up her work again, the Pastor's wife kindly offered to assist & I hope that this peculiarly embarrassing responsibility will be once again off my shoulders. I never opposed her having "full charge". I think I did wrong in giving her "full charge" when she had been only ~~4~~ five months in the station & had very little use of the language. (She has to do much of her work through an interpreter yet.) I had done my best to put the school in a condition that would make the transfer easy for her. I consulted with her all I possibly could. As to her action toward me at the time she demanded the school from me I would refer you to Mr. Macallum. If I did right in giving her "full controll" at that time I would like to ask, what is the use of the Manual? I did it for peace. Since that moment I have sought no controlling influence in the school. In fact I have refrained from exerting my proper right. In many things I have not even had the opportunity of offering a suggestion. Let me give you an instance or two. The Ex. Com. voted to receive a girl on 3£. After Miss C. put the school again in my hands the father came to pay & offered 2£. I refused & stoutly maintained that the condition was 3£ & nothing less could be received. I spent half an hour trying to explain he he misunderstood. ~~He~~ He finally said "If you won't take my word ask the teacher". Sure of my ground I stepped across to Miss C's. room & got the answer "Oh, yes a promise was given to that man that his girl could remain on 2£." I had to go back & tell the man I was wrong & receive his 2£.

Often Mrs. C. & myself act for her as interpreter. When she removed up here she gave permission to the teachers to send any one of the three smallest girls (boarders) up here on errands. Mrs. C. interpreted for her. I afterward told the teachers the same thing. A week ago last Sunday one of these girls came on an errand. Miss C. became quite indignant - told the girl the teacher had no right to send her & ordered her home. Note - the teacher was quite within her right according to Miss C's. rule. But in addition Mrs Chambers had asked special arrangements for that particular thing & Miss C. had given her consent. In addition to that the school was in my charge by Miss C's request & I had given the permission. This caused a ripple between Miss C. & Mrs. C. & they parted with considerable irritation. After a couple of hours Mrs. C. went to Miss C. & said "whatever we may think about that affair let there be no strife between us. I was irritated because you gave that permission through me & I felt that what you did was unjust to the teacher. However that is your matter not mine, let us not come to strife over that." Thus it passed as far as we were concerned, but it had a bad effect in school. To Mrs. Chambers alone is due the credit of passing that crisis so well, as also is due her the credit of guiding another very threatening affair through the crisis to a pleasant ending.

You advise me to let her have "full charge". That is what I have been trying to do all along. In the light of this would you repeat the advice?

Excuse me if I seem to dwell at length on this. I have received the same advice from other quarters, & I would judge that the impression is gone forth that I usurp & control, & wish to give you an idea of how I & my wife have at least tried to act. I am glad to say Miss C. is ~~most~~ cordial in her cooper-

This is not a charge - only history.

ation now. She is quite ready to consult & take suggestion. I have every hope that the winter will pass pleasantly. What may be Miss. C's. real opinion of us I do not know. We hope she is comfortable & at least not unhappy because of us. We are doing our best to be of use to her. I can't help but add that the present condition & her request for transfer because she could not get along with Mr. & Mrs. Chambers are in strange contrast. Her "turn & return" & turn again has not inspired us with any high appreciation of her as a woman of high character. We begged her to tell us wherein we had offended her & she refused.

However in more peaceful times & congenial atmosphere she may yet do good work for the Lord. She needs guidance. A person in whom she has confidence could easily render her the guiding assistance necessary to her. While associated with her we will do our best to be of assistance to her & get along pleasantly together.

I hesitate to say a word about Mrs. Chambers. I would refer you to the Macallums for their opinion of her & her action, though the story was circulated that they left to get away from Mr & Mrs Chambers. I can't refrain from saying a word because I am influenced by these things. Mrs Chambers has her failings as well as the rest of us. Possibly I know them better than her detractors. Yet I hesitate not one moment to say that there is not one of the whole crowd of us that has shown a truer Christian spirit & a more conscientious desire & effort to do duty. There is not one of us worthy of less blame, unless it possibly be Mrs Macallum. Not one of us has suffered more in feeling & reputation. She has born it all heroically & in a most forgiving spirit. Though it would be infinite relief to her to withdraw from here, yet she has always counciled me to move carefully. She has suffered in health. I feel it would not only be dangerous to her health - for she has lost so much she cannot recuperate but it would be cruel in me to ask her to remain long here.

Now, my dear Dr Barton, I know not how far you or the Com. think I might have acted differently in this matter & so avoided some of the painful disaster, I am at least sure we have your Christian sympathy & prayers. We are most anxious to do our duty. Give us your sympathetic consideration & if then you repeat the request, may I ask that you state some reasons for my remaining & I will take them into most careful & prayerful consideration

I am forced to say that I see only your request as a reason for my remaining. I assure you I have written you this letter in no sense as a complaint, but simply to let you know as far as such a letter can my mind & heart & so help you to consider the question more from my standpoint.

I cannot resist making a request. In case my brother's call for help should find favor & take shape would you give me permission to accept an invitation to that station in case extended? In such a case I would gladly withdraw the resignation.

I have just gotten through a three days heavy attack of chills & fever which had been threatening for 8 or 10 days. It left me exceedingly weak. Today I feel very much better. There is a great deal of fever in the city. We have no snow yet. The therm. ranges at an average very little below freezing - very sickly weather.

With very kindest regards
Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Dec. 5. 1894.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 1-14-95
Ans'd

VIII

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Erzroom Dec 22. 1894.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Barton.

Your favors of Nov 20. reporting the Approps. were received with last post. I have forwarded copies of Approps. for each station to each station. What can we say. I am in tremendous perplexity as to what we can cut off. How can we say to the old pastors & churches - we can give you no more assistance! To say to the young men just getting into work - stop we can do no more for you is just as hard. I am now depending on "specials" for our High school for Boys. I simply cannot do it. But you know it all. May the Master open the way for us.

You may believe most all that the papers say about the Mts. west of Moosh. I wrote you giving you a few more authenticated details. I hope that letter has reached you. I give the outline here again. In August the As. were declared in rebellion. The regular soldiers and Hamedieh's were ordered to the spot. Orders were issued from Cple. to put down the rebellion. Both regulars & Hamedieh's were used. The massacres began after the middle of Aug. - about the 18th & continued to about the 10th Sept. The safe estimates put the number of victims at about 4000 - not less than 3500 & in all probability more than 4000. Men, women & children were most barbarously slaughtered - unnamable outrages were perpetrated on all. The less horrible outrages were some of the following, bayoneting the men & in this wounded condition either burrying, or burning them: outraging women & then dispatching them with bayonet or sword: ripping up pregnant women: impaling infants & children on the bayonet, or dispatching them with the sword. Houses were fired and the inmates driven back into the flames. The unspeakable horror of those three weeks must have sent many a one crazy. The story is told that one soldier found a comely infant & took compassion on it & wished to save it. The mother was found in a crowd of poor wretched woman, but she was raving calling for her children. She did not recognize the child & nothing was left to soldier but to dispatch it.

The C'ple commission passed here last Sunday. There is much talk about a consular commission to be sent to the spot. It hangs fire just now & we don't see just why. Now is the time for agitation. Put your agitation on the basis of humanity. There is a virtual reign of terror. I think I hinted to you that the safety of the Bitlis missionaries is not the ~~safe~~ best in the world.

Another thing that may be made a handle of is the fact that Mr. Reit has received small sums from workmen in C'ple, & Mr. K. has paid the drafts. The world in that region is out of touch & this fact, though the service is of the most meritorious nature, may be made use of by unscrupulous men who ~~to~~ want to throw mud. I merely inform you of this fact, that you may know it. Mr. K. applied to me & I supplied him with money, both by post & by cashing telegraphic order. I hesitate to distribute famine relief in the Khanoos district. However I think I can manage that when the time comes.

I am very much better of my fever this week. Miss C. seems to be keeping wonderfully well. I now begin to think it was not all physical distress that was affecting her so badly after the Rs. left. Her dread of association with us, & the burden - greater than she could bear - of the school I imagine made her feel as she did. Relief from both these for a while set her up.

I informed the Rs. of the appr. for their sal. However about the same time I heard through native sources that they were planning to leave in the Spring.

I wrote you last week at length in ans. to yours about my resignation. I trust you will see my point. I do not wish to urge my resignation in presence of the request of the Prud. Com. But there is my side to be considered. The simple request of the Com. is a very strong consideration, but on the other side there are my feelings, & conscience, & life & that of my wife. Put yourselves in our place & give us advice.

If a new man could come at once he could get into the work very well by next summer. A man of judicious action & cordial manner - with a sympathetic patience with the people would get along here very well indeed. There is no need that he should have any thing to do with this trouble, or a word to say about it. Possibly Mr. Macallum would be willing to return. I merely throw out this hint as a thought for I know the question of supply is not an easy one.

There is a proposition to have An. Mtg. in Van. I objected on the ground that these troubles must have preference & they could be better settled that here than at Van. If they are settled I would not have the same objection But I can't quite see how we can get away & leave this place vacant even for time of An. Mtg.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Dec. 22, 1894

J. L. B.
'd 1-21-95
's'd

IX

127

Erzroom. Dec 29. '94.

Dear Dr Barton.

I wrote you last week saying something about the Moosh district question. You will know before this that it was decided to send a Consular commission down to the spot. Every obstacle possible was thrown in the way. The consuls were prevented. The Secs. were then to go. Then the dragomans were prevented & other arrangements had to be made. The French delegate was expected here some time ago, now word is reported that he has not left C'ple yet. The Bitlis Govnr. asks for a cordon on Moosh as there is cholera reported there. So the Conslr. Comn. is delayed. The Turkish Comn. is at Moosh now. Only the President of it was recalled & arrived here yesterday post haste.

In the mean time Sassun refugees are scattered over the country begging. Their stories, together with the stories of the soldiers confirm the most horrible of the reports of cruelty.

In all this remember that the same thing has been going on on a lesser ~~sca~~ scale all over the country. A few weeks ago an Arm. woman of Khanoos was kidnapped one evening by the son of the Kaimakam. That night she was outraged. Next morning her outcry indicated to her friends who were searching for her the place where she was detained & she was rescued. No redress.

Two weeks ago 36 men were dismissed from Erzroom prison after 3 years & 3 mos detention. A

Little over 3 years ago ~~three years ago~~ three Arms. were most barbarously murdered in the Narman district-north of this city & near the Russian boundary. Some Turks were called up for examination & all were dismissed. Later 3 Turks were murdered & mutilated apparently in retaliation. The able bodied men, 62 in number ~~were~~ of two villages were thrown into prison. Some of them were condemned to death, some to life imprisonment, & others to various terms of imprisonment. A number of them died -15 I think- in prison. 36 were released the other day & 11 are still in prison. They have suffered horribly during these three years. In what condition will they find their homes when those who are released return? It is almost certain that none of them knew anything about the murder or had any hand in it. It is said that the murderer is well known & is in Russia. This case is a Sasun atrocity on a smaller scale. For God sake do not let the public conscience go to sleep again over this reign of terror. The land is almost paralized with horror & terror.)

All well as usual.

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Dec. 27, 1894

J. L. B.
d 1-28-95
d

XII 128

Erzroom Jan. 5, 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Barton.

This week receiving no letters from Bitlis - our last is Dec 11 - I telegraphed asking the friends there how they did. The stories here were very disquieting. Just now I received an answer: "We are in peace (selamet), some letters lost, no papers - Cole". I pass this on to you. The condition of the country is very strained. We hear of further imprisonments in Bitlis & Moosh. The commission may get off this next week. The new Turkish & the French delegates are expected here today. The dragomans are not allowed to go with them. This delay is having a discouraging effect on the ~~country~~ people (The horrible stories are only being confirmed. It is said that unborn babes were cut from the quivering mothers & carried about on spear tops. The Turks themselves now see that they went a step too far, & they are feeling the awful tension of suspense as much as the Xns. However the pitiless collecting of taxes is causing fearful suffering.)

Here we are all pretty well. Had over 100 callers on new years - people all very cordial. I wrote you about my resignation in answer to yours giving the advice of the Com. It was a long letter & I hope it reached you.

The mission has started an intersessional vote. I received the Bitlis vote today, dated Dec 11. It is to this effect; "Whereas it is proposed at next An. Mtg. of the Mission at Ezm. to bring to trial the personal grievances between members of that station,

Voted: That we see no good to be gained by the missionaries themselves by further discussion of the subject and apprehend greater harm to the natives, & therefore recommend to the Pru. Com. to be guided by the action of the mission at its last meeting in accepting Mr. R's. resignation from Ezroom station, & recall him to the United States before the next An. Mtg. of the mission." This is signed by Bitlis. Van sends one to the same effect. Harpoot & Mardin are yet to be heard from. I merely send this to keep you informed of what some in the mission ~~are~~ thinking of.

A letter today fr. Mr. R. speaks of his going as a decided matter. He is suffering fr. piles & thinks he ought to have medical attendance. He hints at seeking medical attendance which as he says/

would leave his wife to pack up & follow, so he is trying to endure "till his time is up." It is to be hoped that he will take his family with him if he goes. I say nothing to him about this intersessional vote till I see if it is accepted by Hpt. & Mardin.

Our papers still reach us though it was reported that all Am. papers were to be stopped. The Independent editorials have been good. Keep that thing up.

With kindest regards to you all

Yours very sincerely

W. N. Chambers.

P.S. In reference to the vote above I wish to add this, that as far as I am concerned there was no proposition to bring to trial these grievances. I told the mission that in my opinion the vote started at Mardin last summer secured to Mr. R. the right to be present at An. Mtg, & ~~th~~ it put a stricture on us. The effect of it was to inspire them with hope that the Mardin action might be changed. I urged that if that was still the mind of the meeting & the Rs. were to be present the meeting ought to be in wg room. The proposition was not mine. I only insisted that an end should be given to the matter. W.N.C.

Erzroom, Jan. 6, 1870

129

Copy.

Erzroom, Jan. 5, 1895.

This week receiving no letters from Bitlis - our last is Dec. 11th - I telegraphed asking the friends there how they did. The stories here were very disquieting. Just now I received an answer:- "We are in peace (selamet), some letters lost, no papers - Cole". I pass this on to you. The condition of the country is very strained. We hear of further imprisonments in Bitlis and Moosh. The commission may get off this next week. The new Turkish and the French delegates are expected here today. The dragomans are not allowed to go with them. This delay is having a discouraging effect on the people.

(Signed.) W.N.Chambers.

Copy.

Constantinople, Jan. 14,1895.

The Bitlis missionaries telegraph that three days ago they deposited a telegram at the office "in three copies" which was detained by the Government. I requested Mr. Terrell to ask the Porte to have that telegram sent to him, on the ground that he has a right to know what is taking place and to judge whether the telegram is one which should not be delivered to us. He promised to do this. I judge that something has happened there which is being concealed. But Mr. Knapp adds "tell our friends that we are in peace" (or, comfortable). The Government refuses to deliver to the missionaries at Bitlis either letters or newspapers.

(Signed.) H.O.Dwight.

Copy.   Erzroom, Jan. 5, 1895.

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(Signed.) H.O.Dwight.

Sends Dwight's Statement
Jan. 14, 1895

X

J. L. B.
Rec'd 2-4-95
Ans'd

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Erzroom. Jan. 11. 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.

Boston.

Dear Dr Barton.

Last week a note fr. Marash indicates that thought turns towards the advisability of settling Mr. Macallum in that city. One reason given is that it would be easier to provide for Erzroom than Marash. Will you allow me just a word on this. As far as I am concerned personally I would reiterate my former statements & say that I hope that the way will open for my withdrawal. Still I cannot conceal from myself the possibility that the way may not open. I felt it my duty to resign & to urge my resignation. I cannot see my way clear to recede entirely from my position. The judgement of the Com. & of the mission however must be carefully considered by me. It is this undecided question that leads me to ask that you do not make haste in deciding Mr. Macallum's question. If I remain here I earnestly hope that Mr. Macallum will ~~remain~~ return. The right is Erzroom's. I would urge this; 1. Warm friendships developed amongst the four of us. I feel convinced a thoroughly well grounded & sympathetic friendship. It would be a delight to us to renew that. 2. Our experience of two years together has revealed the fact that we would in all probability would as-

J. L. B.
Rec'd 2-9-75
Ans'd

sociate in harmony in work. Of this I have no doubt. What is needed in Ezroom — at least one great desideratum — is sympathetic & cordial harmony, if that can possibly be secured, amongst the workers. That alone would do a very great deal to revive what has been deadened. It seems to me it would be easier to supply Marash than Ezroom. Either an entirely new element, or the harmonious element of the old combination. 3. If Mr. Macallum's forte is education our schools here offer good opportunity for that. Ezroom needs all it can get in that line. But I would add that I see no reason why Mr. M. would not make a good general missionary — as he does.

May I not ask that that question — the ms. remaing in Marash — be held in suspense pending the decision of my question?

Please do not take these remarks as a concession on my part. I am yet to be convinced that it is our duty to remain here. I am as desirous as ever to go. At the same time I do not deny that duty may demand our remaing, even against our desires.

Saturday Morning Dec 12. Yours of Dec. 14th came in this morning. I was glad to note what you say about Mr. M's. return. I hope he will see his way to return whether we remain or not. His return would make our remaining easier. As I have already is the outcome of a governmental system. There have been hundreds of Sasouns all over the country all through the last ten years as you know. The laxity of Europe has afforded opportunity for the merciless working of this system in all its vigor. It is born of religious & race hatred & has in mind the crushing of Christianity & Christians. It is not the Koordish robbers, or famine, or cholera that have to answer for the present state of the country. It is rather the robbery, & famine & worse than cholera entailed on the country by the working of this system. It is not alone the blood of 5000 men women children & babies that rises in a fearful wail to heaven calling for just vengeance, but also the blood of the small army of victims of the last few years. Also the fearful suffering, the desolate homes, the wanton cruelty of tax collectors & petty officials & the violated honor of scores & scores.

A few weeks ago the following letter came to me.

"Nov. 4. 95. (OS) Kesh. — I implore & earnestly entreat that you will remember one of your former pupils & hear my cry for sympathy & protection. I have been outraged. Oh, woe is me, eternal pain & sorrow to my young heart! Evil disposed & lawless men have robbed me of the bloom & beauty of my wifely the Turkish Governor

purity. It was Hueni Bey the son of the Kaimakam (the local Turkish governor residing in the village). It was in the evening about 1.30 a la Turka [between six & seven oclock] I was engaged in my household work. I stepped outside of the door when I suddenly found myself in the grasp of four men. They smothered my cries threatened my life & by force carried me off to a strange house. Oh, what black hours were there till the sweet light of the sun once more arose. &c &c &c. Though this is written with ink, believe me it is written in blood & tears." &c ~~[illegible]~~. This is one of many & no redress.

The Turk is on trial. Let not Sasoon alone go in evidence, but remember that the same wail rises from all over the country.

I saw an eye witness to some of the Sasoon destruction. He passed through three villages. They were all in ruins & Mutilated bodies told the horrible tale. For 4 or 5 days he was in one village. During the day parties of the scattered inhabitants would come in & ~~give~~ throw themselves upon the mercy of the officer in command. About two hours after sundown each evening these prisoners of that day were marched out of camp to a neighboring valley & the air was rent with their pitiful cries. He saw nothing more of them. He estimates that 500 men disappeared in that way while he was there. Between 200 & 300 women & children were said I am here till the way opens clearly for me to go. I am glad to say the cordiality of the people is quite marked. I am very sorry to say that Mrs. Chambers is physically & nervously not strong enough to take advantage to the full of the quiet that prevails & the cordiality manifested. She made some very pleasant calls yesterday, but could not avoid the coffee & sweets which always upset her & indigestion and increased nervousness is the result. She feels that the children must not be neglected & their studies are a nervous strain on her also. However she is doing her best to take things as quietly as possible & on the whole her health is better than I feared it would be. The strain is still great but we are doing our best & the best we can under the circumstances.

My duties in school & general station work has taken up my time so that I have not been able to visit amongst the brethren as much as would have been of advantage. But they seem to recognize that & our relations are very pleasant. But I can not help but feel that there is the under-current of thought in the minds of some as I have already said. As you say as long as the R's. remain in the country they intend their friends will not forget them & a lot of little Xmas remembrances have been distributed I fear it will continue after Mrs R. leaves. The trouble in this is that it only emphasizes the things that should be forgotten.

Letters from Bitlis dated Jan 1st report them all well. The telegram I reported last week was of a later date. They get no papers & few letters & so are quite in the dark. I have endeavoured to give them news & words of cheer as I was able. They are having a hard time.

Miss C. is retaining her health pretty well greatly to our relief. With care of herself she will pull through the winter all right in health. She is still in our house, but as assumed full charge of the girls school.

We are quite anxious to know the mind of the mission as to An. Mtg. & hope a decision will soon be given. I have urged the brethren to take action soon & avoid the use of the telegraph later. Besides we would like to know whether we are to entertain or be entertained somewhere else.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W.N. Chambers.

P.S. I touch on the all absorbing topic on another sheet.

Erzroom, Jan. 11, 1896

an 12. Rev. W. N. Chambers
issionaries started this morning - God be with them
ur came in with the
ah today.

Erzroom. Jan 11. 95.

Dear Bro. Barnum

Two posts have passed & othing from Hpt. It is two weeks ince I wrote you & even now I donot ink I have anything to say. I find ave no Lab. view blanks. Have u any? If so please send me some. ill it be my duty to copy in full the f. the whole inspecon b. views for the Rooms? If so I hope they ll get in soon. If you have no blanks w are they to be procured? If from Boston ll you please send Dr Barton a note king him to send me a supply. If wait for your reply & then send Dr B. will be very late.

Votes have come fr. Van & Bittis re- iming the action of An. Mtg. in re- ence to {the Rs} & requesting the P.C. recall them (the Rs) before An. Mtg. It reported that likely the same votes

Erzroom, Jan. 11, 1895

may come from Hpt. & Mardin. Some
such official action would be good in c
of need. Though the Rs. seem planning
& the sal. provided only for 4 mos. yet th
had great hopes from the mission I w
judge. The vote need not be communic
to them if they decide to leave. Mr. R. s
to need medical attendance & that
decide them.

Our week of prayer meetings are
well attended. Some people do not li
be out at night. The great questio
the hour absorbs all thought. The Co
starts tomorrow. The Europ.n delegates a
very good men - especially the E. & H. man
Some eye witnesses have been seen here
seem to confirm the worst. May God
the As. in the path of wisdom for the
months.

We are all usually well. Lat
weather pretty cold - not much snow
Kindest regards to you all
Yours truly W. L. Cha

J. L. B.
Rec'd 2-4-95
Ans'd

Erzroom Jan. 12. 1895.

Dear Dr Barton.

I wish I had time to write more at length but I have not. Possibly you have thought of this phase of the question & so I throw out only a few hasty hints for your use, giving you some also information. Last Sunday the French delegate & the two Turkish members of the Commission arrived here. The week has been spent by the consulates in consultation & perfecting arrangements. Two hours ago the European delegates passed out of the city on their way to Moosh: I presume the Turkish members started also, but I am not sure. Late last evening there was some doubt about the start. It will be a great relief to the city to know that the Europeans are on their way. ~~At the last moment the Russian Consulates dragoman (an Armenian) got permission to go. the Armenian dragomans were prevented at first~~

I would say that I know the English & Russian delegates & I believe them to be good & reliable men. The French delegate I have not seen.

Now let me call your attention to these thoughts that come to me. Attention is turned to the work of this Commission. Apparently the fate of Armenia in the minds of many depends on the result of the work of this Comn. Note the task set the European delegates & the circumstances under which they will perform their tasks. They accompany the Turkish commission & watch the proceedings & as I understand it have the right to insist on investigation to their satisfaction, producing witnesses & visiting the scenes of the massacre &c. They will present reports to their respective govts. independently of the Turkish Commission if they fail to agree with it.

Note also this fact that the people are in a state of horror & terror because of the massacres. The Comn has been expected for some time & without doubt the local authorities have used every means to cover up their tracks & terrorize still further those who may be probable witnesses. Those who are encouraged to testify will be again at the mercy of the Turks after the Comn. rises. I have not the slightest doubt that some will be courageous enough to testify, but it will be at great odds. Almost everything is against the perfect success of the commission's work or rather the favourable outcome of the work of the European delegates. It will not be right to stake the fate of Armenia on the outcome of the work of this com. Rather it should be remembered that Sasoon brought into camp. They also disappeared, how he did not know. He was an Armenian catirgee pressed for the transport of the military. He was sent out of the district to Moosh. He & his companion are the only eye witnesses we have seen. Another refugee from a village on the border tells the story of how his mother after terrible hardships escaped to a monastery where this young man was a servant. She told of the merciless slaughter of all the rest of the household & destruction of the village. She with her young child succeeded in reaching the monastery where after a few days she died of her wounds.

The country waits breathlessly the result of the investigation.

May the God of nations stretch forth his almighty arm to save)

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Jan. 12, 1890

J. L. B.
Rec'd 2-12-95
Ans'd " " "

133

Erzroom. Jan 17. 1895.

Dear Dr. Barton,

There is nothing of importance to be told this week. The starting of the Com^{n}. had a very salutary & quieting effect on the Xns. of this city. Up to the time of starting there was much doubt developed more especially because of the delay. The start gave it a form in the eyes of the people & inspires hope. We all now await anxiously for news from M.

There is another point to which I would call attention. The European delegates were not allowed to take Armenian interpreters. The Sasun people, as you know, know only Koordish & poor Armenian & no Turkish. I can't imagine how the delegates will get at the facts. This fact will detract from the value of the work of the European delegates. It is all the more necessary that this question should not be put alone on the work of this ~~question~~ commission. If the European delegates succeed in sifting the matter & getting at the truth it will be a most honorable thing, for they have to work against tremendous odds. As I wrote you last week there are small Sasouns all over the country & scattered all the way down this last decade.

Another outrageous proceeding has just taken place here. Last year the village of Kara Choban in Khanoos was attacked by Koords. One Armenian undertook a defence. His wife followed him to persuade him to return to the house. They were both shot dead by a Koord. The son shot the Koord. Later this son was arrested & imprisoned with others on political charges. A few days ago he was discharged on this charge, but was immediately re-arrested on the charge of murder. The village was a large flourishing Armenian village - flourishing be as success goes in this land. Now it is plunged in poverty & distress because of Koordish & other depredations.

There is a rumor here to which we paid little attention as it lacked the marks of certainty. But later the circumstances being given it seems quite ~~pp~~ probable. It is told that some days ago some Turks began an altercation with Armenians as they were leaving the church called Gatmurag. Some men are said to be killed, about 15 in all. This is not authenticated, but the circumstances seem to indicate its probability.

There is another thought I am going to suggest. I have mentioned to the Bitlis brethren, & if they would make the appeal it would be most opportune. Possibly they have appealed. Many of those Sasun refugees are in most destitute condition. Contributions for their relief would be a great blessing & relief. By the time the contribution would reach the way would open for the distribution. Just now distribution would not be advisable. But by the time the Commission finishes its work the way would open. Yesterday I heard of the remnant, consisting of four persons, of a family of sixty. Such a family as you know would be comfortably well off. These four are now absolutely destitute. There are scores & scores just like them. I would not like to urge this appeal on my representation. If the Bitlis brethren have appealed or do so later well & good. Our last news from them was dated Jan 1st. This is the 19th. If you get any hints of the possible change that may be made here I wish you would let us know & hints as to what we might do. There seems to be great hope of change in the country - quite possibly consular oversight. Is there any thing we ought to think of to do?

I am busy on Xmas calls. I made 30 yesterday & have 35 to make today.

Kindest regards

W. N. Chambers

J. L. B.
Rec'd 2-20-95
Ans'd 27

Erzroom. Jan. 23. 1894.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Barton,

It is a good while since I have written you about the regular work of the station. It has only been incidental references in the mass of what has been written. that has given you somewhat of an idea of our circumstances & work. I am very glad to be able to report a better state than I dared to hope for, & it is a great encouragement to believe that the Lord can sustain this work alive in spite of us workers. We praise Him for His mercy!

As to this city work, I would say that the opportunity for progressive work has been great indeed. But we have, I might almost say utterly failed to take advantage of it. the attitude of our people to us has greatly changed. I think I told you of our New Year's calls - nearly one hundred. there were at least representatives of nearly every Prot. family. The few exceptions later made their excuses for not coming. The people were uniformly pleasant & most cordial. In addition I have just finished my Xmas calling on the people - making 55 calls in all. These also were very pleasant. I am very glad to be able to report this because it will greatly relieve your mind as the question of supply & afford encouragement to anyone who may come.

The week of Prayer passed very quietly. The meetings were not well attended, nor was there any special interest manifested. One or two amongst other reasons were, the very coldness of the weather, and the fact that many people fear to be out on the streets much after dark. Last Friday was the Eastern Xmas & it was decided to celebrate the Lords Supper on the Sunday (last Sunday). Sixteen persons had applied for admission & were under examination. Five of these were received into full membership. You know that I act as a sort of assistant pastor, as the preacher here is not ordained. For the most part the examinations were very encouraging. I conducted the Sunday services & baptized seven children & one girl – the daughter of a preacher who had not had her baptized when she was a child. The entire service was very pleasant. The annual election of officers is yet to be held. I dread this a bit. There have been one or two disagreeable things which may develop bad blood at such a time. The matter of visitation is of importance, but we are able to do but a tithe of what might be done both amongst Prots. & Gregs.

The schools are doing fairly well. The Kindergardners attendance has fallen off greatly. One school is almost empty. the scholars were from the leading Arm. families. The Bishop exerted himself both by fulminations in the church & by personal visitation & succeeded in reducing one of our schools greatly. The lack of visitation on our part - which was impossible - aided in this. Last winter I arranged for a systematic visitation of the parents of the children - giving a list of houses to each one of our ladies. I think this was a great element in keeping up interest in the school. This winter Miss C. has not been strong enough for such work to any great extent & she has not sufficient language yet for it. Mrs. C. devotes most of her time to the lessons of our children & so can do very little visiting. Besides this the whole "situation" of the station & its affairs, was not such as to make for the best success. We now have to consider the advisibility of closing that particular school. The other departments of the girl's school are holding their numbers fairly well. The boy's schools are keeping up very well. The head teacher has been sick a good deal entailing extra work on the rest of us.

I get encouraging reports from the outstations east of us as far as the opportunities for evangelistic work is concerned. But apart from that it is the old story of hopeless poverty & oppression. There was a little of the appr. of last year for the fall months of a winter school in Komaktor. We engaged the teacher for that time. He came into the city today & only 20 minutes ago I told him we could do no more. He had about 40 scholars & on Sundays he often had at service a hundred people. The people are poor, most of them having suffered greatly in the famine last winter. He however has decided to continue work till Spring. Just here let me express a thought that has oppressed me. You know "possession is nine points in the law". If any civil change is made here it seems to me important that every place should be occupied at the time. Actual possession will make it much easier to prosecute the claim of our rights than to argue that we had possession & had to abandon for lack of ability to carry on the work. In the case of cession of territory this is a vital point for all this mission, possibly excepting Mardin.

I have just received a letter from another out station saying the school is full - Sunday services well attended. I am trying to summon courage enough to send word that we will have to withdraw assistance.

Mr. Richardson will report you of the condition in Erzingan & Kemakh.

In my remarks in the first part of the letter to the effect that opportunities were great & we had failed to take advantage of them I meant to say this was true of the general situation as regards evangelistic work, not merely amongst our people, but also amongst others. This has been true for a long time & is increasingly apparent.

The famine stress is greatly relieved. Though early spring i.e. the next two or three mos. will witness much suffering.

We were greatly relieved yesterday by receiving a post card from Bitlis. It was dated the 15th. Our last previous news was the tel. on the fourth which I reported you. The brethren there had not tried to send letters. This post card was a venture. Mr. Cole refers me to Is. 1:9 last clause. Also Is. 22:19. Just after this last reference he says that they had "wired the embassies". From this I judge they had been in danger. They were well & had so telegraphed to Cple. friends. The Commission being in Moosh now the stress in Bitlis will be greatly removed. By the way we hear that an Am. Consul is appointed for here (Erzroom). If this is only the interpretation of the report that one was to be sent or of the Jewett affair, & the appointment is yet to be made would it be possible to exert influence & have the gentleman you had in mind for Harpoot appointed. Let him be sent here now & afterward have him transferred to Hpt. At any rate exert every influence to have a good man appointed i.e. good in his moral character & efficient in his office.

It is morally certain that some girls & women fr. Sasoon were brot. into Erzroom & Erzingan. The story is told here, & I believe it, that a girl was brot. here destined for the harem of a Pasha. She vowed not change her religion & was assigned to a Lieutenant. He is having a hard time for she still refuses to change her religion. Would not death be better than such a life.

Reports come in of intimidation & blackmail in Khanoos & H' Boulanook. The passing of the delegates had a good effect.

Erzroom Jan. 21. 1896

~~Yours~~ Jan 26. Yours reporting the "Specials" came in this morning.

The "Independent" reports that the European delegates are poor men. The Eng. & Russian are very good men & I feel confident will do good work. I do not know the French. If well backed there need be no fear on that score.

Yours very truly,
W. N. Chambers.

J. L. B.
ec'd 2-20-95
ns'd 4 27

135

Erzroom. Jan. 23 1895.

Dear Dr Barton,

I have nothing of very special interest on the burning question of the day. The telegram from Bitlis (which I reported to you some time ago) is the latest news we have of the missionaries there. After that we received a note from them dated Jan 1st. Since nothing comes here I fear nothing reaches you. Later. a postcard dated the 15th, which I mention in another letter) There is a rumor here that there was "an affair." I think I mentioned this last week. The number of victims is now reduced to four – one killed in the churchyard & three in the street. This lacks confirmation. The Commission reached Moosh Monday the 21st. It took the long road, why we do not yet know. There were Sasoon refugees in the districts through which the Comn. passed. There is good reason to believe that the remnants fr. S. will risk everything to testify.

Mr. G. expressed great hopes of a radical change being effected in the country. The attitude of U.S. has caused great joy amongst the Xs. & they are outspoken in their expressions of appreciation & gratitude.

There is a rumor about of something having taken place in C'ple. We are quite in the dark of what it may be. If the rumor proves well founded it may work a great change in the prospects for this part of the country. It is a simple matter of fact that the

Arms. would prefer that Eng. would act in accordance with her right acquired through the Cyprus convention. In this, the most desirable thing for the country would be secured. It is to be hoped the agitation in U.S. will keep that in mind. If the Arms. are to have a chance, this is their country & it should not be ceded. If the nearest neighbors take over the territory it will affect most seriously the only Am. interests there are in the country. In all probability our work would suffer eclipse — not at once, but in the long run. This point should be kept in mind & those interests guarded jealously. You know the importance of this. These are but hints to you, that if these points have not been made prominent, you may consider their importance. The other day in conversation with the Rus. Consul the conversation turned for a moment on things prohibited to the priests. He asked why I did not do a certain thing as I was not a priest (papaz). I replied that in one sense I was a papaz. Oh, yes, he said, but of another kind (bashka tchĕshĕt). The non recognition of our "orders" would be a great drawback to the work. Keep this in mind, & in case of the ceding of territory, agitate the recognition of existing "religions" in the ceded territories at least.

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

The official recognition of Protestantism ought to be secured if that is at all possible.

Rec'd

J. L. B.
ec'd 3-4-95
ns'd 15

Erzroom. Feb. 2. 1895.

J. L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton,

I have only to report a letter from Bitlis which I received this week. It is possible that nothing may have gotten through to you from there. The letter was dated Jan 22. They were all well. A telegram had been received from the embassy at C'ple. informing them that orders had been issued that the post was not to be tampered with. However they had little hope that anything would get through. They had telegraphed to C'ple. their condition. About 20 minutes after receiving their letter I received word from Mr. G—s. that the Vali of Bitlis was dismissed from office. He also informed me that the communication of the Bitlis missionaries to the Europ. delegates at Moosh had been telegraphed to C'ple. The Miss'y's. had represented that their condition was one of actual danger. The order for the dismissal of the Vali had been issued before their complaint reached the embassy. With the dismissal of the Vali they will be greatly relieved. Eumer Bey, a member of the Commission, was appointed as acting Vali. It is reported that the dismissal of Tahsin has had a very reassuring effect on the people. The Europns scored a "big point" on that.

It is a great relief for us to know that not only the missionaries but also the people are, I may as well say, rescued from the hand of Tahsin. Every thing apparently is favourable to a good examination. You may hear a report that there is division amongst the Europ. delegates in Moosh. I have the best authority for saying that there is no foundation for such report. The delegates are working in perfect harmony.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

P.S. We are as usual. We received a cablegram of the death of Mrs Williams. This is a great sorrow to us & disappoints us of many a hope we had been indulging for the future, especially concerning our children.

With kindest remembrances to yourself & Mrs Barton in which Mrs Chambers joins me. W.N.C.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 3-7-95
Ans'd " 15 "

Erzroom. Feb. 8. 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston. Mass.

My dear Dr Barton,

Your kind favor of Jan. 9th reached me by last weeks mail. I thank you for your immediate & kind reply. I understood that the P.C. did not, & in fact could not, put forth any judicial decision in condemnation or approval of any party. I did not intend to question the wisdom of that position, for I think it was wise. I only cited the fact of the wisdom of it as a reason for my resignation i.e. as it was not wise to vindicate me I could not see how I could remain. That was the thought in my mind.

I fear also that I expressed myself not clearly in reference to your advice concerning Miss C. I meant to show the difficulty attending either course. Your advice was all right. I had already acted on that plan ~~& I was in doubt whether~~ & I was in doubt as to whether it had secured the best possible result or not.

However I think the crisis is past. Things have been much more pleasant. I am glad to do Miss C. the credit of saying that considering ~~the~~ her feelings

& attitude toward us last fall she has done well to overcome to the extent she has, & be as pleasant as she has. She went back to her rooms in the school building this week, but still boards with us.

As to the general condition of the question here I am glad to be able to report a more encouraging outlook although it robbs one of my reasons for resigning of much of its force. I am forced to confess that your hope was better than my fear. If the people knew of the ground of my resignation & had wanted specially to remove it, they could not have done more than they have to do so. Last evening we had the an. Mtg. for the election of the various Committees. I presided & I have seldom presided at a & more harmonious or pleasanter meeting. It was large & almost enthusiastic. This meeting afforded me real pleasure, for I had been rather dreading it. While glad to be able to report this I trust you will not take it as an indication that it decides the question. The question of supply goes to An. Mtg. & I hope there will be good representation & that we all may have grace to follow the guidance of the Lord. Neither Mrs. C. or myself ~~is~~ convinced that it will be the best thing for us to remain. Besides there is the question of Mrs. C's. health which in my mind is a serious one. We wait patiently as possible for an. mtg.

By the way, today I get news that throws the possibility of having an. mtg. a little in doubt. Two Eng. correspondents have succeeded in reaching this place. This has caused the govt. great uneasiness & irritation. Yesterday in an interview with the Govnr. he told them that the ordinary traveling papers were now useless for foreigners in the country. Whether that will apply to new comers alone, or also to foreign residents or not remains to be seen when the missys. apply for teskerehs for travel to an. mtg. The mission seems quite divided as to place, Van seems to have the lead. We are quite ready to go to Van if the mission says so. But we see no special reason for the change. I doubt if the vote will receive the requisite vote of 5/6.

A letter from Mr. R. today says he is getting worse instead of better. He says he will have to leave at once for Cple. for treatment, or possibly not be able to travel at all. He proposes to leave Mrs. R. in Gn. to come on later. For this I am exceedingly sorry. His wife should go with him for more reasons than one. I should go to help them to Leb. But I fear to make the proposition. I have asked if I could be of any assistance. I do hope he will not leave his wife to make that journey alone later. The country is in a critical condition & may be worse before ~~instead~~

it becomes better & I dread the thought of Mrs R. taking that journey alone 6 weeks or two months hence. It is not a good thing to do if it can be avoided. I have offered to go down & help them.

I imagine Mr Bruce will not get through here. The powers that be are determined to keep out all foreigners. I will however be very glad to do what I can to assist him if he gets through. However nothing can be done till the snow passes. The news from M. seems to be encouraging. If the new consul for Ezm. has not started on his journey please give him our salutations & you may offer him our hospitality till such times as he can look around & settle himself. A note from the Bitlis friends dated the 29th Jan. they were all well. The country is quiet now, but it behooves the Gt. Prs. to be on their guard. A sudden conflagration is not an impossible thing. After the Com.n the utmost care & watchfulness are needed.

Do not let your mind settle on the Macallums remaining in Marash. The right is Ezroom's. If they are willing to come they have a good field before them for work.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

J. L. B.
3-19-95
1.

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Ezroom. Feb. 16. '95.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton.

Every week some thing comes up to lead me to write you. This week it is a note from Van giving the information of a circular letter fr. Mrs. R. to the other stations saying that as Mr. M. & I had secured berths to our minds in Marash & C'ple. the question of incompatability was thus eliminated which was the point on which stress was put. He therefore asks that the mission ask the P.C. to allow them to remain till after An. Mtg. in order that this new phase of Ezroom supply may be considered. This is both amusing & annoying to me. The only attempt I have made at "securing a berth in C'ple." was a short P.S. in a letter to you in which I indicated to you that I would be glad of permission if possible to consider an invitation to Nicomedia if given. If that is "securing" a berth, then I would be glad to know it. I do not know how much the mission knows about this matter, but this letter would give the impression that I have sought a call to C'ple. which I have not done. Besides as far as I know the "berth" is not "secured". However Mrs. R. writes Miss C. that she (Mrs. R.) had it fr. a "reliable" source. I have tried my best to hold my judgement in suspense & my desires in abeyance till after An. Mtg. as you requested. This comes with a bit of a shock.

Another thing that causes me some anxiety is the fact - as I incidentally hear this week, that Mr. R. has gone to C'ple. leaving his wife in Ezm. It seems to me in the present state of the country that was a most unwise thing to do. The remaining in Ezn. city is bad enough, but if she has to take the journey to Treb. alone, I must say it will give me a great sense of relief when I hear she is in ~~C'ple~~ & beyond. The T-s. are in a most irritated state. Even in this city there is no little apprehension. They are restrained while the Comn. sits in M. But as soon as that rises unless there is immediate action taken there may be a time of great danger - to foreigners as well as to natives. I offered my services to the Rs. it was refused. The very thought that I can't go to their assistance - though I would be glad to do so - is oppressive. If anything should happen Mr R. it would raise a storm of indignation. I wish to express my indignation that Mr. R. has left his wife in Ezn. alone. It is inexcusable.

Nothing of vital interest fr. the South. Post card from Bitlis date Feb. 5. All well - slight respite - still anxiety.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers

J. L. B.
c'd 3-25-95
s'd 28

Erzroom. Feb. 22. 1895.

Rev. Dr Barton. D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton.

If all my letters reach, you will wonder why I write so often. I have posted you a letter every week. Of course it is altogether doubtful whether all get through or not. I received a note from Mr. Cole last evening dated Feb. 9th. They are in very considerable anxiety about, not only the safety of the city—but of their personal safety. They raise the question of leaving & taking families to a place of safety. I replied to Mr. Cole that it seemed to me everything was going along hopefully. The Comn., though to all appearance ~~was~~ greatly retarded & handicapped, was doing first class work. Rather I should say the Europ. delegates were really meeting with good success according to reliable report. Besides that there could be no special danger while the delegates are there & after they finish their work every one will be so on the alert that no opportunity would be allowed for disorder. Though the T/s. are in a most irritated state & imagine & desire, even threaten all sorts of things, yet the powers are wide awake to the situation & are taking every precaution—i.e. they must be.

doing so. Besides that, if the missy's. at Bitlis would undertake to leave it might precipitate a crisis & throw the Xns. into a greater panic an undesirable thing now.

There is all the more reason for the presence of a U.S. Consul. They - the consuls - ought to come as quickly as possible. What a pity it is that such a man as Terrel is holding the post he does in C'ple.

I have seen some eye witnesses - participants on both sides of the Sasoon massacre. I believe the most horrible stories are only too true. It is useless for me to go into detail here. You will get reliable details in the Telegraph (London) & the Daily News (London). You need not discount in the least the news given there - more particularly the Telegraph. The writers are good men, both are doing good work. This is enough now. Later I may write more fully about them.

I saw two persons from Sasoon. One was a member of a family of 28 souls - comfortably well off. To day he is a homeless wanderer on the face of the earth & knows not the fate of one other of his family whether all are slaughtered or any escaped ~~all are dead~~. He hid himself in the rocks for several days - collecting nuts at night & finally made his escape. Not one house remains standing & the church in which so many women were put & then outraged & slaughtered was knocked down on the mangled corpses. The other man was from a family of 23 souls of whom 9 survive - homeless & beggars. This man tried to escape. He was bayonetted in the shoulder, falling on a stone his teeth were knocked out. He was left for dead. He crawled into a swamp & finally made his escape. He had a very ugly scar on his shoulder Men women & children were - after delivering themselves - bayonetted into a big pit - the dead & wounded flung in together from the end of the bayonet. Those who tried to escape were shot down. But it is simply a repetition a dance of devils intoxicated by the blood of the slain, a carnival of Hell.

Let me call your attention again to the unrest - the increasing irritability of the Ts. their insolent & threatening language & the consequent unrest of the Arms. Precautions are being taken for instance it is reported here that the Govr. called the head of police & told him he would be held responsible for even a bloody nose. But greater care should be taken about the close of the Comn.

But post must go.

Yours truly

W.N. Chambers.

J. L. B.
'd 3-25-95
s'd 28

Erzroom Feb. 22nd 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

My dear Dr Barton:

Your favor of Jan. 23rd reached me to-day. Allow me to thank you for the calling of my attention to the inquiries of the W.B.M.I. concerning the statement "that money has been loaned by the Treasurer of Erzroom Station to the Turkish Govt. .... & that it may be lost to the Board." I was very greatly surprised to receive questions of similar import from Harpoot & Bitlis by the last posts from those places. Those were the first indications I had that any suspicion attached to the treasurer of Erzroom Station. That there has been nothing of the kind & no ground for even the faintest suspicion of the kind since the treas. came into my hands last July I can absolutely assure you. That Mr. Richardson while the treas. was in his hand made no loan to any Turkish official I can assure you – at least I have no knowledge of such. I can also assure you that no money was lost in that way or was any in any danger of being lost in that way – or any other way for that matter.

You do not say who has been so injudicious as to make such misleading "statements" & produce such a false impression. It is a~~s~~ very serious thing indeed to make statements of such a nature without first having enquired as to the stability of the ground on which they may be based. I therefore thank you for your kind enquiry. At the same time I cannot help but wonder who has made the "statement" & why.

In thinking over the transactions of the station the only thing I can think of that would afford any ground to an imaginative mind to make such "statements" was possibly the building of the girl's school. You will remember Yohannes Agha Aghajanian the civil head of the Prot. Community here. This man has been our right hand man for years. The erection of the building is really due to him. Without him we could not have done anything. In so far as the work was successful it was due to his untiring zeal, tact & wisdom. He gave a great deal of time & you know what that means to a merchant. The very great part of that time was spent at the Govt. house & you know what dealing with Turkish officials is. It was pure zeal for the success of this work that led him to endure what he did. He worked for months to obtain the permit. If you could have witnessed the deep pleasure he experienced when he got the permit in his hand you would have rejoiced with him.

Now it so happens that he has dealings with the Government. The drafts for the payment of the Keshi taxes are drawn on him. Often he is asked to advance money on these drafts as soon as they are reported by telegraph as having been drawn. You know the absurdities of Turkish methods. He often makes these advances even to the extent of 500 & 600 £.T. He is a man of first class business ability & is most careful, & his credit is of the best.

This gentleman became treasurer of the building com.tee which consisted of Mr. Macallum & himself. He had to pay out money for the school before actual building operations began. Checks for the building fund were placed in his hand. These he negotiated (He negotiates many of our checks for us). Some of this money being in his hand at a time when a demand was made on him for an advance on a Keshi draft he asked if he might use that money not needed for immediate building purposes. Permission was given to him & I think a little more was advanced to him to help him

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As soon as the building was finished & all bills paid Hohannes Agha accounted to me for the entire amount placed in his hands & passed over the bal. of the ~~ba~~ amount to me. This was done last Oct.

In order to refresh my memory I asked Hohannes Agha this evening for his understanding of the transaction. He gave it as I have stated it above.

I am going to make a suggestion, & that is, a note from either yourself or the Sec. of the W.B.M.I.

in acknowledgement of the most excellent services of Mr. Hohannes Aghjanian in the matter of the school building would be highly appreciated by him & have a good effect.

Let me give you an instance of what he has endured. A T. official in position to block the school building at any point came to the store of Hohannes Agha to buy goods. He insisted on taking the goods on credit. Hohannes Agha saw that if he refused to allow it the school building would be jeopardized. The value of the goods was 3 £. The bill is not paid yet, & never will be.

But it is after midnight & I must stop.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

4-1-95
9

Erzroom. Feb. 27. 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton

I think I suggested to you the great need in which many of the people south are suffering. The little amt. of famine relief we still have on hand we are holding for spring, or as much of it as possible for seed. Let me give you one or two instances. H. of H— village has between 15 & 20 people in his house. He has been able in former years to provide for his people. He came 60 miles to entreat assistance, reaching here some days ago. The price of wheat is such that he needs at least one dollar's worth a day that his people may eat dry bread once in 24 hrs. He has *nothing* to turn into food. I gave him $8.80. And I felt ashamed to offer him so little.

The other day I was besought for assistance for nine refugees from Sh— g of S— n. They were the remnant of a once prosperous family of 23 souls. Another from S— g. was the only survivor of a family of 28 persons. Another came with a friend. The father of a family. He was in a family of 13 of which 7 survive. He was of S— l. His story in short was about as follows. In the time of wheat harvest the soldiers appeared in the district.

for ten days they continued to arrive from different points. Friendly Koords informed the Arms. that the soldiers intended to attack them. The soldiers called the Beker anli Koords. After which these Koords attacked the village shepherds and drove off the sheep killing one of the shepherds. The shepherds followed & after a skirmish with the Koords in which men were killed on both sides & the sheep were brought back.

That evening a messenger was sent to the military with a present of 10 sheep & a quantity of butter to beg that the military might come & protect them. The messenger never returned. The next morning the village was surrounded by what the people supposed to be Koords. A skirmish was maintained for three days. The villagers having only flint lock guns could not do much execution on the enemy. The rifles of the assailants killed many of the villagers. After three days the villagers were told by friendly Koords that the assailants were soldiers in Koordish dress. That struck terror to the people & an attempt at escape was made. The soldiers entered the village & fired it. Many people perished in the flames. The soldiers followed in pursuit & kept up an indiscriminate slaughter of the greatest cruelty. Many succeeded in escaping to Gilia Guzan. There the soldiers attacked the villages & for five days the slaughter was continued. A remnant escaped to the mt. Antagh. The slaughter was kept up in pursuit. For twenty days the refugees remained in the mt. under the fire of the military. They kept themselves alive for the most part on raw mutton. When Priest Hohannes with 500 (five hundred) people - (men women & children) went to surrender on the promise of protection a number of others tried to make their escape towards Diarbekir. This man with the remnant of his family was amongst these latter. They hid themselves in the forest. After the slaughter was over they were collected by Govt. officials & taken back to the ruined district. Not a house was left standing in these once prosperous villages. The officials promised that the houses would be rebuilt, ~~the~~ double compensation for all losses, freedom from taxation for 7 years if they would settle in the villages. Only a signed declaration to the effect that the slaughter & destruction was done by the Koords was demanded. For about 10 (ten) days the poor people were detained amongst the ruins of their homes & violent means were resorted to to induce them to comply. They steadily refused. They were then ~~all~~ distributed amongst the poverty stricken villages of the Moosh plain. This man told a few stories of what he had seen in addition to the indiscriminate slaughter. One of his little

little girls was lost in the flight. The beyoneting of men women & children was too awful to describe, though he could give the names of many children that he saw slaughtered. His uncle named Dono was fleeing with his 2 year old child Avedis on his shoulder. A bullet from behind struck him (Dono) in the leg & he fell. The soldiers overtook him & one made a slash at the child with his sword beyonet. The father threw up his arm to protect his child & received the blow on his forearm which almost severed his arm. Then the child was raised on the point of a beyonet & the father was beyoneted where he lay.

He saw two of the five hundred who went with Priest Hovhannes (referred to above) to Gelliaguzan to surrender. These two escaped the slaughter. The story of those five hundred was given as follows. The priest was tortured his eyes dug out, ears & nose cut off, ropes were then thrown round his neck & he was jerked back & forth in imitation of a dance & otherwise maltreated. In the evening the people were fed. Remember the company was made up of men & their families. Next morning early the troops were paraded. Detachments of five or six men were ordered out of different companies. The rest were sent back to camp. The prisoners in the mean time were divided into companies. Each company of of soldiers were ordered to bayonet a certain groupe of prisoners & throw them into ~~th~~ a large pit already prepared. The dead & dying were thrown in together, men women & children. Day after day this fiendish work continued.

Apparently ~~St~~ Semal was the first village attacked. Shenig & Gelliaguzan soon followed. Later the large village of Talvorig was ruined. This village was shelled with mountain guns. The story of the horrible outrages visited on so many of the women of this village & in the church is not only confirmed, but the bloodcurdling details are too awfully horrible to put into words. Then after the outrage & slaughter of the women the church was knocked down upon the slaughtered bodies with shells from the mt. guns. Many people took refuge in a large grove or wood. This was surrounded by soldiers & Koords & shelled & so set on fire & apparently the great majority of the refugees in it were either killed by the shells, or perished in the flames.

I told you before of the betting on the sex of an unborn child & the ~~of~~ awful cruelty entailed on the poor mother. This is further confirmed. Also the bet on the question of cutting in two with one stroke of the sword four children - "Christian puppies" - This also is further confirmed.

Yours very truly

4-11-95
9

Erzroom. March. 8. '95.

Rev. J. L. Barton,

Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton

I have to report you "partial" progress. Apparently the "shall" of the new manual has not had the desired effect. Mardin started a vote for An. Mtg. to be held here on July 17th Erzroom. It came by way of Hpt. It has three nays. Andrus, Barnum (who adds "not at present") & Allen (who says it "can be settled later whether there can be an An. Mtg. or not") Thom. Dewey, & Gates vote yea. I have not heard from Van & Bitlis. But the three votes will prevent it getting the full 5/6 vote. What shall we do? It is to be hoped that the country may be somewhat settled by that time. The time & place might have been settled.

The other item is the "memorial" from Mardin to the P. Com. In reference to this I would say that I have not seen the letter of Mr R. to you referred to & so do not know the statements definitely which Mr. R. makes. I would very strongly object to the assumption that incompatibility was the reason of the trouble & that the question was a personal one. Both elements entered; but the real trouble lay much deeper. I can't understand the why of this memorial. The question will not down as you see. I do not wish to be the means of keeping Mr. R. out of the Station, but I must say that the memorial would in my mind go side by side with the vote started by Mardin last summer. As far as I am personally concerned I feel that his return here would only establish the insinuation made against me that I personally was the cause of his leaving. that I cannot accept for it is not the fact. This action of Mardin with remarks from other stations & indicating somewhat the same position, ~~only~~ i.e. that "if the P. Com. will indorse the return of Mr. R. the mission would not seriously object, only makes me all the more willing to leave. I wonder now what action the P.C. will take. Now that An. Mtg. will delay so long & looking to this vote the possibility that there may be no meeting, though I still hope there will be would it be possible to settle this question early. the meeting being in July & that the close we could not hear from you till the close of Sept. at the time the fall work ~~[illegible]~~ should begin. I can't see any way but for the P.C. to declare itself once more & secure a settlement.

Last post brought a letter from the Nicomedia church & Community setting forth the importance & needs of the work in that region & expressing a hope that I might see my way clear to undertake work them. They place before me a very attractive program. However I simply mention this as a fact, not as a reason for my going though if I go it will be a very pleasant thing to help establish the most cordial relations.

I wonder if the C'ple. station has taken any definite action. I was surprised the other day to receive a note from Mr. Barnum asking me if I would take an oversight of the Avedaper during his possible vacation this summer. I answered that as I had no invitation to come to C'ple. as yet I could not definitely comply with his request.

I have a good deal of interesting information but have not time this week to send it. A late number of the Times had a letter from Reuter's agent which was not exact. The news in the "Telegraph" (Lnd'n) & also the "Daily News" you may take as reliable. I can't give you as much or any more reliable news. Dr. Dillon has been quite unwell & is with us as guest till he recovers.

Our health bill is not good. The children suffer much from malaria. For three days Kate has been in bed. The Dr. (Dr Grossman) says they both & the children ought to have a change. Miss C. is keeping tolerably well.

With kindest regards

J. L. B.
Rec'd 4-5-95
Ans'd 9

143

Erzroom. March. 8, '95

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton.

I find I left out a page of my letter last week I enclose it in this & continue the story.

There is good authority for saying that there were between 45 & 50 villages entirely destroyed - not one house or building left in each. A safe estimate places the houses destroyed at 1357. The principal villages were Semal, Shenig, Aclantseg Gelliagoozan north & east of Antok mt. & Talvorik to the south. In the district of Kavar of Sassoon only Enguznag escaped burning. In this village there are the remnants of 20 families starving - not living. In five other villages are are a few remnants of families living in hastily erected huts. They are described as almost as follows: They are almost destitute of clothing while the weather is very cold & snow deep. The huts put up by order of the govt. are rude uncomfortable places devoid of all comfort. After the massacre some of these destitute people begged from other villages millet seed. This they ground in the hand stone mills. The flour they mix in water into a thick porridge they then build a fire on a large stone & heat it. The after the stone is heated the ashes are drawn aside & the millet flour mixed in water is poured on the stone & the ashes drawn over it & a fire again built over it until it is baked hard. This is the only sustenance they have had - they have not even salt to mix in the mess. Some of these wretched remnants have died of hunger & exposure. Men heretofore comfortably well off have chosen to perish in this way ~~than to~~ amidst the ruins of their homes that live on charity. Two girls one 14 & one 16 died of hunger & exposure. The other refugees are scattered from the scenes of the slaughter to Tiflis. They are in the greatest need.

Another young fellow from Sheneg was in yesterday. He adds something to the horribleness of the story of the time after the slaughter when the survivors were collected & held in the ruined district. Not only were the men abused, but the women were carried off to the tents of the soldiers at any & all times without let or hinderance. I have a list of women treated in this way in Sheneg. One of the victims was a girl 10 years old. I send this by favor of the English consul through his special messenger to beyond to Cple.

I have just received a tel from Bitlis. Mr Knapp saying "My father dead". Servant of God at rest.

With kindest regards

J. L. B.
Rec'd 4-8-95
Ans'd 9

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March. 16. 1895. Erzroom.

Rev. J. L. Barton.
Boston.

Dear Dr Barton.

I thought surely that this post would go without a note to you. This time it can be very short. I received a telegram on Thursday from Bitlis. It read "my father dead," It was signed by Mr. Knapp. He is the first adult male missionary that has died in anyone of thes four nothern Stations of the mission. He has gone to his reward in a ripe old age & after a life well spent. It ~~is~~ was with mingled feelings of sadness & joy that the news was received by those of the Bitlis people who are here. Sadness to think that they will see his face no more in the flesh; joy that he has gone to his reward. Mr. Knapp in his simple unostentatious way impressed himself on Bitlis & the work accomplished there is a lasting monument to a life well spent. His death following so close on Bad. Simon's connects them in their death as they were so closely associated in their lives & work.

I forwarded to you a few days ago through Mr. ~~[illegible]~~ Dwight a letter. It had also a check that I left out of a former letter. I hope it will reach you safely.

Kate was very poorly last week, but milk diet has brought her up again & she is much better. Mrs Chambers' ears have been troubling her a good deal. The weather is very favourable to malaria.

We got no post this week, only a special from Trebizond. Whether a storm was the reason or something else we do not know.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

P.S. The times still remain very *uneasy*.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 4-15.95
Ans'd 16

Erzroom. March 23. '95.

Rev. J. L. Barton
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton

Your favor of Jan 15 (with P.S. of Feb 15) Feb. 21 & 25. came to hand this week.

I note with pleasure the appropriation of some of the contingent estimates & will report at once to the stations. - also your instructions concerning the preparation of estimates. But, see here, ar~~en~~ you "not sure that the sum usually indicated at this season of the year has been regarded by your mission as a definite pledge"? But this is a time calling for patient waiting in more senses than one. I report the "specials" to the various stations - as also the change in the "Handbook". I reported Mr. Knapp's death last week & hope the letter will reach you safely.

The final votes on the mission An. Mtg. question reached me this week. The proposition was made that the meeting be held in Erzroom on July 17. This received 8 affirmative & 3 negative votes. If the rule is to be construed strictly the vote is lost as it has not received the required 5/6 vote. I report this to the stations & suggest that those who vote in the neg. start another vote. The time & place might be decided & then if it is quite impossible to hold a meeting that can be decided later. This vote not only negatives time & place, but the mtg. itself. If a settlement in the country comes at all it must come come before that & if it does not come, not only will the meeting, but even residence may be impossible.

I wish now I had prepared an appeal for famine relief as you suggested, but I hoped the Bitlis brethren would do so. I have not time this week & will try & do so for next. I think a strong appeal will be made in London with the thought of its publication in ~~the~~ U.S. I will keep you informed of it & try & have you communicated with so that there may be harmony in the whole effort. The "visitors" here are discussing such a scheme.

I have no special news this week only that the strain is on the increase. I have letters from Bitlis of March 4th & 5th. They were well. Mr. Cole had returned to Bitlis from Moosh. They are still anxious & it is an anxious time. I was glad of your words. Our daily prayer is that God may establish righteousness.

~~W~~ Having been interrupted I have forgotten what I was going to say & have no more time to think what it wa

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

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J. L. B.
Rec'd 4-15-95
Ans'd 16

Erzroom. March 23. 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr. Barton

Your favor of Feb 13. reached me by this week's post. Allow me to express my appreciation of the very trying & delicate position in which you~~x~~ are placed in reference to this station affair, & to thank you for the sympathetic way you have tried to steer your way through this tangle. Would that the affair was settled, but evidently you are not through with it yet. I had hoped that I could now leave the matter rest for adjustment, but it continually comes to the surface. Mr. R's. circular letter to the mission with copy of one to you reached my hand ~~today~~ this week. Now comes yours of the above date. I presume you felt yourself obliged to communicate to me Miss C's. complaint which touches Mrs. Chambers & myself most seriously. As to the question of visiting amongst the people I do not think any one holds it in higher esteem than we do. So much do I esteem the good influence of it that I arranged for systematic visitation of the houses of the children in the schools when the schools were in my care. I made this arrangement before Miss C. came, assigning a list of names to each of the ladies Mrs. R. ~~Miss~~ Mr. & Mrs C. The effect was what I anticipated. The schools have suffered this year because it has been impossible to keep up that system of visitation. Mrs. C. tries to do what she can for her S.S. which meets in our house & she has succeeded in keeping the attendance well up about 200 - often much over that figure. I say this to let you know what our views are in reference to that most important element in this work - house to house visitation. Let me say here that Mrs. C. is physically unable to sit more than an hour & a half, or at most two hours - except on special occasions & then she has to suffer. Moreover she has not the time & I do not think it would be right for her to neglect her children & house for that work. "Duties do not conflict". She has suffered in reputation on this account.

This much to let you know our judgement in this respect. Now as I understand your letter I would judge that Miss C. has at least indicated that we made her feel that she was watched by us & so felt hampered in her movements in this respect. I *indignantly protest* against such an unfounded (unfounded except in her own imagination) & wholly *unjust insinuation*. What is more I demand an apology from her for both Mrs. C. & myself. I do not hesitate to assert that she has not had the slightest legitimate ground for such. I am sorry to say that Miss C. is quite unwell again & we have telegraphed to Dr. Reynolds to come if possible. Were she well I would at once show her your letter & demand explanation & ample apology. I well know that misunderstandings may arise at any time which a word of explanation may adjust when the difference of opinion is not radical. But when she imagines a grievance & writes to you & the Womens Board thereby casting a slur on us I must say I become indignant & I think righteously so. Had this been the first time this kind of mud had been cast at us I would not feel so strongly. But there is a point where patience ceases to be a virtue. Somebody started that false "statement" about the loan to the Turkish Govt. This calls for a very ~~serious~~ severe rebuke from you. It is a very serious thing to make such an unfounded charge. In Mr. R's. letter to the mission & to you he declares that I have "_desired for a long time to go_" to C'ple. To characterize this by its right name is to say it is _false_. He says that at the time I was demanding his removal from the station I was in correspondence with C'ple with a view to removal there thus shutting that door to him. This is not only false but it is slanderous, for it insinuates that I not only tried to get him out of here but at the same time tried to keep him out of C'ple. which taken in the light of other things said & done is equivalent to a charge of mean hypocracy. The statement that I had _tried_ to _secure_ a call to C'ple. or in any way solicited one or even expressed a desire to go to C'ple. till after the C'ple. people suggested the thing to me is entirely without foundation in fact.

Now, my dear Dr Barton, I trust you will bear with me for speaking so strongly. I am quite ready to bear with other peoples weakness - for am I not weak myself? - & I am free to say that I have borne, & suffered acutely, as has also Mrs. Chambers. She has unjustly suffered a good deal more than I have. But when it comes to this kind of thing I call a halt. The lives of us all are too precious to be worn out by these petty things, which are not petty when they are made to take on this exceedingly serious aspect. If you have the slightest suspicion that there was any ground for Miss C's. insinuation, giving you reason for your caution to us then should you not merely caution us but reprimand us, for the offence if it existed would be a grave offence. I therefore trust that you will understand me, & I assure you it is with the most kindly feelings toward you & a keen appreciation of the delicate & embarrassing position in which you are placed, when I say that I refuse to accept your caution. Mrs. C. & I have acted right along that line. We did our best not to give offence. I am sure we gave no ground for offence & no caution is necessary. And I would request you to caution Miss C. to avoid such things in the future.

I hoped to make this very short for there are other things of greater moment waiting to be done. It is a shame to have to spend so much time over this.

But there are one or two other things to which I would call your attention. Miss C. is quite ill again. We have telegraphed to Dr. Raynolds. She has come up to our house again & has spent the last two nights with us. She says that when young she had spine trouble. Her medical examiner told her that it need not give her any trouble if she did not have a severe attack of malaria. She has had several severe attacks of malaria. Her back & the back of her neck are now troubling her & she feels quite apprehensive of her old trouble. She has no confidence in the physician here. We feel not a little anxious about her. Mrs. C. is not at all well & this added strain may be serious for her. If Dr. R. can't come I do not know what we ~~should~~ will have to do. We need professional advice – & the question is a serious one for Miss C. for her future life may be dependent on what she may do now.

I cannot refrain from again calling your attention to the serious fact that Mrs. Richardson is alone in Zn. To speak plainly I think this is serious enough to call for decided action. There is no need of tempting Providence. It is not courage to do such a thing as that it is foolhardiness & is inexcusable. The strain between Xn & Tk. is stiffening every day. The hostile feelings towards foreigners more particularly towards English & Americans is daily on the increase. I assure you it would be a tremendous

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May I add a word about the station? You have received Mr. R's. circular letter to the mission & Mardin's memorial & I presume the judgement of other stations on the question. I need not point out to you that Mr R's. assumptions are entirely without foundation & unjust to me. However they may have considerable influence with others as they seem to have had in Mardin & may possibly effect the decision of the P.C. Will you kindly at once inform me if they do have effect. For if his assumptions are taken as facts & change the decision I will certainly renew my resignation.

With kindest regards W. L. Chambers.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 5-13-95
Ans'd 17

Erzroom. ~~Feb~~ March 25. 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton,
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton,

The following is the translation of a letter I have received from the Caucasus. It speaks for itself & if you use any of it you will know how to use it that the brethren there may not fall into any greater danger. What a strange thing it is that Russia should pose as the liberator of Oriental Xns. & visit such things on them.

"Samaghar Dec 1894.

Rev. Mr. Chambers - Servant of Jesus Christ,
Dear bro.

I send you the Lab. view for 1894. With earnest desire we have waited long for a letter of advice & comfort. It is more than a year that neither we have written to you, nor have you written to us. (Reason explained further on. W.N.C.). Though we cannot see each other face to face, would that we might be comforted by correspondence. My reasons for not writing are (1) the attitude of the Govt. & (2) the severe scrutiny of the P. Office. But I am sure that Br. Zohrab has kept you informed of the condition of the work here. Because he is known to the P.O. officials as a merchant. He writes to England, America, & Persia, Russia

& other places on various things. For this reason there is no suspicion attaching to him on religious subjects. I therefore urge him to give you information about our work & present our salutations to you. We are at the present time well. But we desire to hear about your welfare & the state of the work where you are. We are greatly pained to know that the condition of the country where you are is very bad &c.

As to our work. We were not able to visit Kara Kala & other places in the Kars district for the reason that you did not send the money, nor did they, to pay the expense of the journey. We were ready to go with all pleasure, although dangers were in waiting. The govt. refuses to give us a traveling permit for that purpose. But now we hope to gain that point in the near future. For our ~~Br~~ Baron Geragos (the leading protestant brother in the Samaghar community. W.N.C.) is now Glavini (local governor) of eleven villages comprising about one thousand & twenty houses. For this reason we hope for success. Therefore if you wish us to continue our visitation through 1895 please send the amount previously agreed upon, because the communities say they are unable to provide the expense. Will you therefore declare your pleasure to us. They continually invite us to visit them, but ~~not~~ without promising expense. In such visitations we see much good. In our own midst the ~~table of the Lord~~ sacrament has not be celebrated for a year. The celebration brings no small gain to the churches. I think you understand our state. The Govt. keeps close watch on us & on all protestants in Russia especially those of her own nation. During these last years there have been exiled a number of Russian brethren & now they are found in Etchmiadzin. Erivan & Igdir & other places. They are not permitted to visit amongst the local brethren or come to our chapel. Besides this the Govt. searched the houses of Deacon Marderos & Narin Beg. They seized all their papers & books & ~~now~~ until now there ~~[illegible]~~ has been no examination, & there is no hope of the things being returned. The register in which Baron Marderos kept the record of deaths & birth was taken, besides there were the names of our children. We know not what may be the result. May Jesus be jealous for his work!

We visit the brethren found in the near villages. I go to one each Sunday. Praise to the name of God who by his unseen & almighty arm has given ~~by~~ protection. I believe that the Lord is working miracles all the time as in the time of the prophets & apostles, although in a different way. Last August the Governor of Erivan came and visited the district of ~~Erivan~~ Etchmiadzin. When he came to our village he was accompanied by a number of local officials. He alighted from his horse at the door of our chapel. Many of the villagers & some from other villages were present.

He first asked many questions about the village & its industries &c. Then he asked about the school & scholars. Our oldest boy Yezegel was near & was pointed out to him. He asked him all about the school & chapel. Our boy told him all about the school & other things in the Russian language. Then the Govr. asked him "Will you come to the Seminary (Govt. School) at Erivan". "With pleasure" said the boy. "Will you attend the acadamy" asked the Govnr.? The boy answered "I will come, but my father is unable to pay the expenses". After this he spent a couple of hours as the guest of Our Baron Geragos. In Sept. according to the word of the Govr. we sent Yezegel to the Seminary at Erivan & he is prosecuting his studies there. He writes that no one has a right to say anything to him as to what he is. They do not oppose his reading the Bible, keeping the Sabbath or his habit of prayer. And as I have consecrated my children to God, I trust that He will preserve them in their moral & spiritual principles as He did Joseph & Daniel & the three children. I beg that you will pray for this also that he may be a good officer of Jesus Church.

Repe (his daughter) since the death of her husband has continued her work amongst the women both here & in other villages. Although they wished her to go to Tabreez as a teacher, yet she did not go saying that he was pre pared for work in the vineyard of the Lord in Russia & not in other countries. And she is ready to engage in the work. Will you please let us know your mind.

I hope we will be able to celebrate the communion of the Lord's Supper in five or six villages. Pray for us that that there may be no trouble on the part of the Govt. & that the people may be ready.

Concerning myself let me say; I wrote you once that I was unable to live on the salary. You answered that the people should support me. But the people day by day are becoming poorer & sinking deeper into debt. They are scarcely about to give 60 or 70 Roubles (a year), while you continue one lira a month which is about 8½ Roubles. You can make account from this whether I am able to live on what I receive. When my sal. was fixed I had a small house & few guests. Now my expenses have increased and the lira is 8½ roubles, then it was 9½ & 10 roubles &c. The Bible agent here gets 45 or 50 roubles a month. Don't think that I wish to lay aside money. I do not. I merely wish to have enough that I may do my duty freed from the worry of debt. We count our lives nothing why are you careful of your money? We deem it our duty to give our lives for the gospel without reserve. Every day danger threatens. Some of us have been exiled. We may follow as you very well know. We with joy devote our lives. Do you the same with your money. I write this for benevolent friends, as you understand & through you. But be assured that if my salary should be made a thousand liras, a month to ~~life~~ live for the hopes of the world we could not be induced to leave for a moment this struggle in the open battleplain of Christianity. I only hope that I may be led to eternal glory by the promises of Jesus Christ. Yes, according to the word of the apostle "If ye have hope only in this life, ye are of all men most wretched." I trust you may see the justice of my plea & may be moved to action & I need not again protest. Do not be wearied with the length of my letter, especially the part in which I wrote of myself. I cannot write you often. You must take this in the place of three or four letters.

"Do not forget the work of the school. The lack of money caused great trouble. I arranged a collection the other day for the school & 65 roubles were given & that by those who have little. The school is in good shape. There 45 scholars. I rejoice that the teachers are doing their work well. The meetings of the brethren are also encouraging. The people are in better condition than they were last summer. However sometimes they attend weddings & some drink wine for which I ~~read~~ severely reprimand them. For this & for other things also it would have a good effect if you would write a strong letter of advice as you did last year; especially cautioning church members against the use of wine, & also reminding the people that the children of non church members are not admitted to baptism.

I especially entreat that you present my salutations to .... & all the brethren & to the brothers & sisters of the Am. churches with whom you are acquainted, that all may pray for the work in Russia that the Govt. may grant religious liberty that we may enjoy the right of worshiping the living God ~~according~~ with a free conscience. Every praying for you & waiting impatiently for the answer to my letter,

I remain   Hohannes Kaloustian."

Ah. dear brother, I have great hope, for in the words of the Song of Songs "Lo the winter is past, the rain is over & gone. the flowers appear on the earth the time of the singing of birds is come & the voice of the turtle is heard in our land." Behold the foliage begins to appear on the spiritual trees & we know that a glorious summer is nigh, near are the gates of heaven, & near is Jesus Christ who is all in all to us.

H. K.

April 3rd I intended to put this in little better shape but have not had time & so wait no longer & send it on as it is. If you use it for the Herald I imagine it would be just as well to use it so as not to betray the identity of particular places & persons. That work in Russia is still facinating, but is subjected to great hinderances. We can't get at the people so as to develop the grace of giving as we would like. But I think the helpers do do their best in this respect. The coming in of the Stundists will embarass our work greatly. But that also is in God's hands & the steadfastness of the Stundists may have a good effect on our people. In Kars & Kara Kala the work is promising. The Kars people are very anxious for a preacher & they ought to have one.

Yours very truly

W. H. Chambers.

Erzeroum, March 25. 90

J. L. B.
Rec'd ____
Ans'd ____

Bitlis Prison March 28. 1895

To the united English Press.

Honored Sirs,

(From 1892 to the present time)

Bitlis Prison — Hell.

In the Bitlis Prison there are seven cells, each one large enough for 10-12 persons. There are between 20 & 30 persons crowded into each one. There are no sanitary arrangements. Offal, bugs, lice, & human excrement are heaped together. Armenians found in these cells have to do their purchasing through the zaptiehs & at double price. They are deprived of immediate communication with those outside & letters directed to them are not delivered. What they are allowed to write must be in Turkish. And to get it written 2 piasters or bread equivalent to the daily ration must be given. The daily allowance of bread by law should be 300 drams, but it is never more than 250 & that is dirty & poorly baked. Often this is not delivered. The water is undrinkable. Armenians often have to drink the "Khuliteh" water. This is the water of the tank where the Turks perform the "abdech" -ablutions for prayer. Should one dare to ask for justice he is at once thrown into a dark damp subterranean cell. Armenians in these cells are the slaves of the caprice & severity of the Turks

Caspar Khapoian of Avzood village - Moosh, had his head & arm broken by the prison keeper with an iron shovel.

Servon Manoogian of Verkhemnes village - Moosh, was violently beaten & strangled by zaptiehs.

Mihran Damadian of Constantinople was taken to Moosh being beaten & illtreated by the way. Put into chains & handcuffed. he was brought to Bitlis with his leg broken.

Melo Mukhian, Verto Boghosian of Mushghachen of Moosh died a few days after release from prison from the effects of the illusage sustained in prison.

Muggerditch Sughertsian of Bitlis died a few days after release from prison from the effects of illusage sustained in prison.

Garagos Asdvadzadoorian of Gundza village of Modgani died in prison from the effects of ill usage.

Marderos Sahagian of Asdghanpert of Keghi after 15 days imprisonment in Bitlis died from the effects of illusage. 10 £ found on his person was appropriated.

Gopo the rais of Charonk village of Khulp died in prison from the effects of illusage. 9 £ found on his person were appropriated

Malkhass Aghajanian, Serop Malkhassian of Avzud village of Mooch were beaten into a fainting condition. Malkhass was burned in 8 places and Serop in 12 places with hot irons. A zaptieh forced his penis into Serop's mouth.

Hapop Seropian of Avzood village Mooch was striped of his shirt & drawers & beaten till he fainted & then a girdle was thrown round his neck & he was violently forced to the zaptieh office where he was branded in 16 places with red hot ram rods. A zaptieh forced his penis into this man's mouth. He was kept on his feet for five days & nights without food or drink. He was also subjected to violent beatings & plucking out of hair.

Serko Minasian, Garabed Malkhassian, Kero Asdvadzadoorian of Avzood village of Mooch were violently beaten forced to remain standing for long periods at a time & the contents of the vessel containing human excrement were poured over their heads.

Hachig Minassian of Mooch was choked with ropes till he fainted by Muhe Tchaoush.

Korken Mardoian of Semal village of Shadekh was subjected to violent beatings, plucking out of hair & forced to remain standing for 24 hours at a time. Then Mulazim Hadji Ali & the prison keeper Abdul Kadeer forced him to perform the Shatan Topee (Satanising - the hands are tied together the feet forced through between them & then tied together by the great toes) then the committed sodomy on him resulting in his death. Korken was 45 years of age.

Caspar Simonian of Khass village of Moosh was beaten for 9 nights by zaptiehs by the order of Muhe-Tchaoush & Capt. Eskender of Hadji Taieem. They bound him hand & foot foot & committeed sodomy on him nearly every day resulting in his death. He was 35 years of age.

Mukhetar Safarian Khacho Baloian of Kakarlu village of Boulanik were forced by the prison keeper to do Shatan Topee, then they committeed sodomy on them. Mukhetar was 15 & Khacho 13 years of age.

Sogho Sharoian of Alvarenj of Moosh was kept in Moosh prison in an iron collar of 9 okas & heavier chains on his feet. He was brought to Bitlis prison in handcuffs. The zaptiehs kept him in their room 3½ months. Often they forced him to stand for a long time hungry & with beatings. The committed sodomy on him. When he would faint they would pour water on him to revive him & they would renew the beating. They plucked out his hair & burned him with hot irons. He was Damadian's

Sewauh who was 30 years old.

Markar Manoogian of Verhannes of Mooch was violently beaten by zaptiehs in Mushaghsher. On the way to Bitlis the zaptiehs forced him to carry him by turn on his back & when his strength gave out they beat him. They kept him one night in a hole made in the snow. The kept him awake 3 nights without food or drink & did not allow him tobacco to which he was greatly adicted. He was hanged on Feb. 27th 1894.

Saghatiel Merzoian of Hosh Geldi village of Boolanik was kept standing without food & drink for long periods at a time, hair plucked out, violently beaten, chocked with ropes, three times thrown into a faint. The prison keeper caused him to be bound to a ladder & beat him with his shoe on the stomack back & head & then spit in his mouth.

Hampartsum Boyajian of Hadjin of Adana was arrested by the soldiers by the soldiers in a cave at Hartk village on Aug 23. 1894. He was kept three days in the sun that he might sicken. On Aug. 28th the soldiers took Hampartsum & his companions to Semal where Zekki Pasha was. They were beaten & imprisoned in a church & were not allowed to go out to attend to natures wants. They were forced to make water in the church font & evacuate their bowels on the church altar.

with 21 companions Hampartsum was brought to Moosh prison & kept there for two months. In one month 6 of them died from the effect of ill usage. They were kept in chains. Eight days after they were brought to Bitlis two more died. Four days before being brought to trial Hampartsum was forced to stand 24 hrs. without food & drink & subjected to other tortures (beating, plucking out of hair &c). A foot chain of 9 okes was put on his hands. His foot chains are now made heavier, he is subjected to torture, & Koords are enjoined to beat him. He is forced to clean privies.

Oh, Where are you Christian Europe & America? Where are you humane Europe and America?? Where are you civilized Europe & America???

(Signed) N. V. Kharakhanian Arachnort of Moosh.
Mushegh H. Nazarian.
Agha Beg Bedrosian.
Murad(1)

(1) In the publication of this, care should be taken as to the signatures that the misery of the prisoners be not increased. M.

(In the publication of this or any part it would be well to leave out the address & signatures W.N.C.)

28. In line with the enclosed let me give you the following extract from a letter of Avidis Gagosian of Bitlis received here April 15. 1895.

"The Armenian prisoners suffer all kinds of ill usage from which many die. The Govt. official reports state that they died natural deaths. Damadians servant Sogho of Alvarinj village ~~after~~ was subjected to cruel treatment. then a zaptieh named Rechid committed sodomy on him of which he afterwards boasted in public that he had done so in the presence of a lot of zaptiehs in order to dishonor him, adding "this is the way we treat you".

The prison keeper named Abdul Kadeer has a sal. of 300 piasters a month, yet it is said that he has 2 or 3 Turkish merchants doing business on capital loaned by him & he has lately built a house costing 500 £. All this money has been squeezed from Armenian prisoners".

Here is another report which illustrates what the state of Turkish prisons are.

About three months ago three men—leading men—of Kurtabaz of Rasin were imprisoned without cause. They were put into a room already overcrowded with Koords. Even the Koords had not enough room to stretch out at full length to sleep at night. These men were assigned to a corner of the room close beside the hole in the wall used as a privy. The filth & stench was horrid, the vermin was even worse - they became covered with lice & the fleas were in swarms. The Koords told them they had received orders to abuse them. They had not room even to sit down at night & so were obliged to stand & lean against the wall close beside the place used as privy for 15 (fifteen) consecutive nights. They were by that time able to gain the good will of some of the Koords by feeding them & they secured room enough to sit down at night. One of the Koords befriending was punished by deprivation of his daily allowance of bread & he was put into chains for three or four days for befriending the giaours. Had they not been so befriended they feel quite sure they would have perished in prison.

A few days ago the brother of one of these men was arrested on April 22 on a false charge & he is now in prison.

Bitlis Prison: Mch. 28, '95

W.N.C.

Still another. Vossian Agha of Agn was taken to prison because he refused to go bail for a Turk. He had gone bail for a number of Armenians under arrest. He was violently abused, & the Yuzbashi forced him to kiss his (the Yuzbashi's) penis & then do the same for the other zaptiehs in turn. This was in the summer of '93. No good came of complaint. I have this from a native of Agn - good authority. It shows the wide spread & studied attempt at degrading the Xns. I have given these items to the press & consul here. W.N.C.

4-22-95
24

Erzroom March 29. '95.

Rev. J. L. Barton,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr Barton,

Last week I received yours in which you caution us in reference Miss C. You indicate that x she has felt herself hampered because of our surveillance. I wrote you last week expressing myself somewhat strongly about it – possibly rather too strongly. I wish to assure you again of my appreciation of the trying position in which you are place & the great difficult you must have in judging of the actual condition of affairs here. I stand exactly where I did last week on the question you brot forward. As I said then I cannot accept the caution you give as there is no ground for it whatever further than Miss C.s. imagination. I would urge upon you that you would inform Miss C. that I demand an apology for the slur she has cast upon both Mrs. Chambers & myself through her complaint. Possibly I was irritated more than was necessary. But that came right on top of the false charge of a loan of money to Govt. followed by Mr. R's. gross misrepresentations in his circular letter to the mission & in his letter to Van. Ample apology is due me & Mrs Chambers for these things.

Miss C. is still quite poorly. The Dr. here again insists that a change is necessary for her. Dr. Raynolds could not come on account of health. If the road was open I would take her to Treb. Probably I will as soon as the roads open. I do not care to leave my family alone just at present. Apparently most of the people sat up all last night. The strain has greatly increased. The people are in a state of suppressed terror. I still believe that nothing is likely to occur. However there are all sorts of threats made & not a few outrageous things done almost every day.

Word from Bitlis on 13th giving word of Mr. Knapps death. No other news of importance — all were well.

Will you please order for me the book you mention. Please write my name on the fly leaf inside & direct the book as per the enclosed paper.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

P.S. Allow me to call your attention to the need of women's work here. Miss C. has not been able to do much. Keep the question in mind & be exceedingly careful. History should not repeat itself. W.N.C.

Erzroom, March 29, 1895.

4-22-95
24

Erzroom. March 30. 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston. Mass.

My dear Dr Barton.

I have to acknowledge your favors of Feb. 26. & 27. I have communicated to the mission your communication in re the "Handbook" to which you refer in your letter of the 26th Feb.

In your letter of 27th Feb. you call attention to the invitation to Mr. Macallum. I have already informed you of my action in this respect. I repeat the gist of it here in case my former letter may miscarry. On receipt of Mr. Lee's letter I started an intersessional vote on the matter recommending the transfer of Mr. Macallum. I did so that that time in order to have the question settled as quickly as possible. I presumed that P.C. would be in favor of it. I hear that Harpoot has favored it. I am free to say that I urged the brethren of the mission to vote in the negative. Erzroom has suffered so terribly, her claims ought to have the first consideration. Erzroom affords as interesting work & as promising outlook as any station in the empire. Mr. Macallum would find his work here as well as in Marash. He is as ready to come back as to remain where he is - possibly the preference is on the side of return. Remember the very important position that Ezroom may assume in the near future. The missionary circle if possible ought to be strong & harmoniously united. There ought to be no time worse than wasted on any question arising out of so-called "incompatibility". Referring to myself once again I would call your attention to this that the great question in my mind in reference to our remaining is the health of my family. Mrs Barton's experience will let you know what I dread. Now while it is quite possible that new associates might be all that one could desire, yet there is the possibility of the opposite & the dread of it might be more than we more especially Mrs. Chambers could bear. If it were my right to dictate to any extent terms of service I would want to put Mr. Macallum's return as a condition of my remaining. I must say it is asking a good deal of us to waive our desire to leave & then take away the only tried & trusted associates we had. If we remain I think the concession of the Macallum's return might be made. You urge me to hold on, many of the brethren of the mission do the same. The feelings & attitude of the people have greatly changed. As soon as the R's. get out of sight & hearing no word will be said about it all. This all makes me feel that it *may possibly* be my duty to remain. Our work is not always where we prefer to be, it *is always* where duty calls. If duty calls me to remain here may

God give us the willing mind & heart. If it is still your mind that we should remain I beg that you will consider our infirmities & hold yourselves open to secure to us those conditions that afford the best possible strength. In other words if you wish to secure our stay here you will have done a good deal towards it by sending the M's. back.

I presumed that the consul for Erzroom would be named ere this. I had in mind to suggest Fred. P. Powers - (Miss Powers's brother) - now in New York. I have no idea that he would come. I only know he is a good man & if he could be induced to come he would do good service. Dr. Jewett has a good reputation & possibly he may come. I have no doubt he would do good work.

Dr. Dillon is still with us. He is doing a good deal of work.

With kindest regards,

Yours very truly,

W. N. Chambers.

P.S. In glancing over your letter again an expression catches my eye that I do not quite see through. You say; "the mission might feel th..... that it could not spare one who had proved himself so efficient......, *even if it seem best that Mr Macallum do not remain in Erzroom*" This last clause seems to indicate that at least the suggestion has been made that it might be best for Mr. Macallum not to remain at Erzroom. Is this true? Let me again say that in my judgement there is no reason whatever why Mr. M. should not remain here other than the possibility of his doing better work in Marash as teacher in the Seminary. On the other hand there is every reason why he should come back, and I would say that it will be a great mistake if he does not return.

Erzroum, March 30, 1893.

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4-29-95
5-6 –

Erzroom. April. 6. 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr Barton,

I have written a note to Miss Chambers' father who seems to be quite alarmed about her. The thought comes to me that possibly you may have questions asked about us. So I enclose the note for your perusal after which please forward.

Yesterday we telegraphed Mrs. Richardson to come by way of Baiboort & meet Miss C. In this way they would loose two days & I would save a week. A telegram reached me ten minutes ago saying that they could not change their route & for us to meet them at Gumesh Khanea. This will take me away for 12 or 14 days. Had it only been to Baiboort I would have gotten back in 5 or 6 days. Miss C. is suffering from malaria. The Dr. here has repeatedly said that she could not recover here. She had a severe chill & high fever yesterday. In the hope that the change may do her good she decides to go to Trebizond. Her winter here has been one of almost invalidism. It seems to me she needs a thorough change

were well. Mr. Knapp's funeral was very largely attended. Gregorian ecclesiastics took prominent part in ceremonies. City quite quiet.

and careful medical advice.

You will have heard that Mr. Parmelee went to Yozgad to escort Mrs R. down to the coast. Had I been informed in time I could have arranged this trip & saved time. But I had to hear of Mrs. R's. plan from one of the people here. Miss C. refused point blank to give us any information concerning Mrs R's. plan apparently because charged not to do so by Mrs. R. We got an inkling of some plan & asked Miss C. & she replied; "Oh, don't ask me, I can't tell you". I merely tell you this to let you know that I am forced again to do what might have been avoided. However possibly this is the beginning of the end. I most earnestly hope it is.

Allow me to say that I received a letter from Mr. Talcott Williams last week. He spoke of the interview he had with you & of the great pleasure & satisfaction it afforded him. He anticipates good results from your work. I tell you this for your own satisfaction & encouragement.

I have urged the brethren of E.T.M. to veto Mr. Macallum's transfer. If the mission does not pass the transfer I trust you will be ready to favor his return. He ought to return.

Yours very truly W. N. Chambers

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J. L. B.
Rec'd 5-13-95
Ans'd 17

Erzroom. April 19. '95.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton.

Last week Tuesday - April 8 - I started with Miss Chambers toward Trebizond. As Dr. Parmelee had gone to escort Mrs Richardson from Tr. we planned to reach them at Gumesh Khaneh & so save me a week's time. We fell in with them on Saturday morning & Miss Chambers left with them for Treb. I returned reaching Erzroom on Wednesday April 17th.

Now I find myself in a most akward position. I would prefer to keep quiet & let this question work itself out, but I fear remissness to duty. You have to take action & it is due you that you should have information. I therefore feel myself oblijed to write you as a matter of duty. In dealing with Miss C's. case I would call your attention to the following:

1. Miss Chambers health, during the larger part of her residence here of about 13 mos, has been bad. During the fall & winter she has been almost incapacitated from work. The Dr. here says it is malaria for which the only remedy is change. Erzroom has become much more feverish these last two or three years. It affected Miss C. so

that sometimes she became delirious. I would venture the opinion that except she secures a most thorough cure she should not return here.

2. She has good ideas as to the conduct of a school in many of its aspects, but she utterly failed in putting them into operation. She is not at all intended for the responsible conduct of a school. This school is worse off now than when she assumed the conduct of it. This may be the result of her ill health, but I do not think so. A ^person^ may be lacking in certain qualities & be in no way to blame. ~~they are~~ He is to blame in presuming ~~to attempt~~ to do that for which he is not fitted & will make a failure of.

I am loath to write this, but I feel compelled to do so & call your attention to this & suggest that you would carefully consider the propriety of Miss C's. return to this place. Her health may decide the question, but if it does not might you not delay her return till you are satisfied concerning it?

This I write simply & solely out of regard for the progress of the work.

3. To come to the personal part of it. The question of our remaining or going having yet to receive a final decision I do not feel like expressing myself strongly. But I say to you ~~that~~ simply for your information that you may clearly understand my position that I have entirely lost all sympathetic interest in Miss C. Not questioning her motives

I have no confidence in her steadiness of principle or action. She is, to say the least, exceedingly changeable in her thought & action so that should she return I have no hope whatever that we could work in anything like sympathetic harmony. I would want it clearly understood that I could not in any way become responsible for the condition of the school. The expense has been heavy this year & I have no expectation that we will be able to continue the boarding dept. next winter for want of funds. With the boarding dept. closed the school question would be easily arranged. I feel quite sure that Miss C. got little or no pleasure from our society. Now such being the case would it not be better to make other arrangements if that is at all possible especially since Miss C. has applied for a transfer?

Now I trust you will understand me. I write this in no spirit of opposition to Miss C. It is only to give you a hint of the conditions existing that you may consider all points possible. I was about to speak to Miss C. & let her know my views, but she was not well & I did not do so. I greatly dislike this writing you without her knowledge. However I could not say to her that I hoped to see her back.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. V. Chambers.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 5-13-95
Ans'd 17

Erzroom. April. 20. 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton

Your favors of March 15th & 21st came together by this week's post. In another note I told you of my escorting Miss Chambers to meet Dr Parmelee & Mrs. Richardson on their way from Erzingan. I think I also told you that I have offered two or three times to assist the Rs in any way possible - even to accompanying them to Trebizond. Mrs. R. sent a message through Miss C. saying "Tell Mr. Chambers that there is nothing he can do." I am glad Dr. Parmelee was able to go & get her & I am greatly relieved that she is not in Ezn. though things have greatly quieted down & there is not nearly the danger there was some time ago. Yet there is every probability that the anger may rise suddenly again. I regret that I had not earlier information of Dr. P's. going to Erzingan. I could have taken Miss C. there & visited the brethren there & so made my visit & expense count for much more than it did.

For the better control of the girls boarding dept. I have decided to remove the girls to our house. I prefer to have them more particularly under our personal supervision. I would like your judgment as to the closing of the dept. next term.

The situation here is greatly relieved for the present by the efforts of the officials to keep quiet. You will have all the news in the Telegraph & news.

I do not remember that I reported to you the action of Van on the Macallum question. That station says that the need is about equally great in either place. They would be glad to have Mr. M. return, but they think Mr. M. is the best judge as to where he can do best work & so they would prefer to leave the question to Mr. M's. judgment & conscience. Mardin & Bitlis not heard from yet. No news last week from Bitlis.

The blanks received by this post.

Yours truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom Apr. 20. '95.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 5-20-95
Ans'd 22

Erzroom. April 25. '95.

Rev. J L Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

This week brought in the vote on Mr. Macallum's transfer. It stands 5 yeas & 3 nays. & so according to rule is lost. Drs. Wheeler & Thom failed to vote. Van - as I have already written you - did not vote, declaring that they felt the need at Erzroom as great as at Marash & would like to see Mr. M. back in Ezm., but preferred to leave the decision to his conscience & judgment as he was in a better position to decide as to where he could do best work.

Harpoot (3 votes in aff.) says they voted yea on the ground that possibly Mr. M. had found his sphere in Marash. Bitlis says, they are consistent with former position. they opposed his going & now oppose the transfer. Mardin only expresses herself by two votes in the aff.

If this negative vote does not settle the question please remember that Mr. M. is a member of E. T. M. & Ezm. Station. Theirs is the first right. His sphere may be here as much as in Marash, especially with the more hopeful outlook for the country, both evangelistic & educational work prospects loom up in grown up in large proportions. Now there is another question that seems to me of no little importance in view of past experience. Harmony in the Erzroom circle in so far as that is possible is of vital importance. Now if we remain, our association with Mr. & Mrs Macallum having been tried, not only our personal desires, but an arrangement that would secure station harmoney ~~ought to have~~ ought to be considered of prime importance. I do not deny that new associations might be just as harmonious, but because of past experiences we feel very nervous. If we do not remain, you will find in Mr & Mrs. M. those elements that would secure harmony if that is at all under new association possible. Our remaining depends greatly on health & the question goes to An. Mtg. But whether we remain or not I would urge Mr. M's return.

I have seen Mr. Greene's book. It is very good indeed & most timely. I feel now that we have done our duty & can turn attention more strictly to our work. We are all quiet here just now. There is considerable suppressed rejoicing as there was previously considerable suppressed indignation & terror. The outlook appears to be very hopeful. The Com^{n} at M. is now only trying to gain time. I imagine it will get all tangled up behind time

& be "like mustard after dinner" to the Ts.

I have written the stations urging the decision for An. Mtg. I asked Mr. Graves & he gave it as his opinion that there would in all probability no reason for hesitating to have the mtg. The traveling would be no worse than in ordinary year & in all probability much better.

Word from Bitlis this week of April 9th. All well & things quiet, but not without an anxious feeling.

We have brought the boarding girls up here. The school is going on all right. If the Tab. Views reach you a bit late you will understand why. I dont seem to do anything & have no time left.

The weather have been very disagreeable for two or three weeks & very depressing in its effect. However we are keeping fairly well. Mrs. Chambers' head has been bothering her a good deal for a couple of weeks. Kate is not very well these days. But we hope for bright weather soon & more fresh air outside of the city.

With kindest regards
Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Saturday Afternoon Feb. 27. Your favors of March 26. with enclosure to Achayamian just at hand. We were sorry indeed to hear of Mr. Ward's death - A faithful & devoted servant. The

Com:n at M. going very slowly. Petty oppressions are increasing in severity in the collection of taxes but less threatening language is being used. Things are on the whole quiet. W.N.C.

Our papers were all opened. Only the wrappers of some appeared.

Erzroom, [illegible] Apr. 26, 1896.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 5-31-'95
Ans'd 6-7

Erzroom. May 1st 1895.

Rev J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton,

I thought I had gotten to a point where I could give less time to writing about the state of the country. But the enclosed translation is of a document that came to my hands & I felt I should give the time to a translation. I have furnished correspondents here with copies of translation & placed the original with translation in the hands of the Eng. Consul here. I also send a copy to Mr. Greene at London. It is sufficiently horrid to make it of importance. I add a few notes of another prison near here. I have no doubt Erzroom prison is little if any better.

The situation is greatly relieved in the matter of the relations between Turk & Christian. The Turk is endurable now & the Christian breathes a good deal freer. There are a few patrols in the streets yet. The Turks are feeling very hopeless & curse the govt. very freely. Very many acknowledge the massacre. The other day a Mollah was asked his opinion of it. He gave it as his opinion that if there was a rebellion in progress the govt.

had a right to punish males above 15 years of age but the persons of women & children were sacred. The Govt. was most unrighteous in the Sassoun matter.

The oppression for taxes is very great. And an attempt is being made to collect the taxes of refugees to Russia from those remaining population. The tax list of Pasin is being examined for the last 11 years with a view to collect back taxes from all who cannot show receipts. If this is attempted it will cause great suffering as few can show more than three or four year receipts.

It is the most earnestly hoped that some change will have taken place before this reaches you, at least some definite action that will inspire the people with confidence in the future. This delay is only increasing the agony.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly,

W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom. May 1. '95.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 5-31-'95
Ans'd 6 7

May 4th 95 Erzroom

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton,

The following came to me from Moosh & I take a moment to send on to you: After giving considerable information about the Com.n which you will likely read in the London papers long before this reaches you the writer goes on to say

The Sasson people are scattered amongst the villages of the plains & are a great burden to the poor villagers who are scarcely able to provide their own living. At the same time the Turkish Officials oppress the villagers going about to drive the Sassoon people ~~to drive the~~ out of reach. Thus they ~~prevent~~ hinder the sowing of the fields. At no time has the Govt. left the Sassoon people quiet, driving them from mountain to plain & from plain to mountain & that in inclement weather over muddy, snowy roads, the people on foot & the officials on horseback. So they are scattered, & troubled hungry, naked, & homeless. They have no way of gaining their food, many of them have died. Who can tell their misery.

A few days ago a few people who had begged a little millet seed for food were returning to the mountain they were met on the road by zaptiehs. they were ill-used by the zaptiehs & the millet seed scattered on the snow. Seed time is past. Who will feed these people for the next year? Help! Help! for the Love of God help!"

The utter wretched condition of the people is simply heart sickening to think of.

Post just in. Yours of April 9th this moment at hand. The post leaves in a short time

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, May 4. '95

J. L. B.
Rec'd 6-3-95
Ans'd

Erzroom May 7. 1895.

Rev J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton

Your favor of April 9th came by last post & I had time only to acknowledge it in a letter sent through Mr. Dwight by the Consular Chapar. Apparently none of your letters have gone astray. I am glad if all mine have reached you. I think I said that I had not given so much time to the question on account of the corres^{nts} being here. My letters reaching you long after their telegrams were published. It is a grand thing that such a profound impression has been made. I sent you on copies concerning prison matters which it is to be hoped will deepen that impression. That question is being worked up. It is just as horrible in its way as the massacre in the mts. Would that those consuls had been sent. They are now too late for this question. The delegates left for Sassoon on Sunday last. It is to be hoped the Com^{n}. will stick out & not follow at once. This is the begining of the end. But the state of the poor people after the delegates leave will be more easily imagined by one who knows the country than described it. Those who dont know the country cant begin to imagine what it will be. It is to be hoped that that time may be shortened.

I note your remarks about the station questions & the Rs. After the number of times that the mission has at least indicated its willingness that Mr. R. should remain in the bounds of the mission, followed by the Mardin Memorial & the defense of the Rs. from Harpoot it is but right to you that the mission should clearly express itself. Mr. Dewey says that their memorial was based on an "if" & that the P.C. would know whether the statements were well founded or not. However the brethren of Mardin do not seem to think that their memorial would be to the Rs. in the light of an invitation to return & they would base great hopes on that. If you stood out against those things you would be open to the same charges as those preferred against me, viz, that personal opposition to the Rs actuated you. Some of the brethren seem to think that the R. question is now settled as far as the mission is concerned & your relegation of it to the mission will be a surprise to them. I do not see very well what else you could have done. Though it is a continuation of the burden.

I have already written you of mission action in reference to ~~mission~~ Mr. Macallum's question. Dr. Thom this week adds his vote to the affirmative on the transfer question.

As the An. Mtg. question did not gain a full vote & the brethren have written showing a willingness

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to consider the vote as it stands affirmative, I am writing inviting the meeting here for July 17th suggesting that if possible July 10th be adopted so as to give us opportunity of getting out of the city earlier. I have not received the Bitlis or Van Tab. views yet. Neither have I gotten full returns from our own station. The blanks were filled up in Ezingan & given to Mrs Richardson & she failed to send them on time. I have written the fourth time for them & hope to have them by next post.

Last Independent that came the issue of April 11th had been opened & a whole sheet pp 27-28 torn out. It was part of the "Book Review" dept. & I judged it to be the review of Greene's book. I am glad to be able to say that the book commands the respect of the Eng. Consul here & also of the correspondents. The people here are wild to get it & translate it. Just here I can't refrain from quoting from a note written to Mr. Allen at Van & forwarded through me. I suppose Mr. Allen will speak of it & just here I give it as an "aside" to you. "If relief comes, in whatever form to those oppressed victims of Turkish lust & villany they will have to thank primarily for their emancipation you gentlemen of the Am. mission: & Europe also owes you a debt of gratitude for giving her the opportunity of redressing—even at the eleventh hour—the wrongs that have ~~for so~~ ~~[illegible]~~ for so long been heaped on this Xn people. ...... You & your colleagues, I know, do not labor for fame or recognition or even gratitude. But I greatly wish that I were not debarred by the consideration of your own positions in this country from telling my Eng.sh readers how deeply they, the civilized world, & especially the oppressed Arm. race are indebted to your fearless & tireless efforts on behalf of truth & justice." I give you this as a bit of interesting private reading. That blow delivered by G.P.K. was tremendous. How I wish this question was over for it takes a tremendous amount of time & regular work - not merely in the time given to it, but it absorbs all attention & people can scarcely think of anything else.

Outwardly the city here is very quiet - the feelings are greatly suppressed. The patrols are still in the street but very many less. The Govr. the other day lost his temper & burst forth in a passion in his council. He roundly berated the Xns dogs both native & foreign. It was a momentary burst of temper, but it was a straw to indicate what those pent up feelings are. However the Ar. question is getting such headway & the Ts. are feeling so nonplussed & chagrined that they may not presume to do anything.

Yours very truly,

W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom. May 9th. 1895.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 6-3-95
Ans'd 7

158

dear Brethren

Judging from letters received from some members of the
sion since the vote concerning an. mtg. was passed I conclude
that vote would be made affirmative. In addition to that
are the opinions expressed by Mr. G's. that seem to me of con-
rable weight viz:- 1 That the meeting is likely to be quite practic
le & advisable & 2. that Ezroom is the most desirable place
. As the time is short & not sufficient for another formal
& taking for granted that this vote has received at least
nsent of the mission I take it upon myself to assure the mission
we of Ezroom will be very glad to have the meeting here, &
the same time to assure all delegates that Mrs Chambers & I will
lighted to welcome all to our house as guests. We hope no one will
ate to come on account of the thought of extra work for Mrs Chambers.
would only ask the indulgence of friends if we are unable to do as much
their comfort as we might otherwise do. We look for a
e representation. The time mentioned in the vote was
ly 17. We would suggest July 10 in order that we may
ble to get out of the city a little earlier after the meeting. Will t
various stations please telegraph me the date which
ceptable & I will telegraph the date decided upon.
Dr. Barton strongly urges the holding of a meeting.
shing that we may have a full meeting

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, May 7. 95

1 J.
Rec'd 6-3-'95
Ans'd
7

959

Erzroom May 10th 1895.

Rev J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Your favor of April 16th received to day. Allow me to thank you for your immediate reply to mine concerning the question of Miss C's. visiting amongst the people. I am very sorry that I wrote so strongly because of ~~the~~ my misunderstanding your letter. I beg your pardon if my letter wounded you in any way. I have no excuse other than the impression that I labored under after reading your letter. Just let me say how that impression was made. You say that you feel sure that we would not be "inclined" to restrain her &c. From that I got the impression that possibly you felt that we had at least given ground for what Miss C. felt & complained of. Besides that I was sorely tried at what Miss C. had attempted to do just about that time – to summarily dismiss from school a most promising girl because she ~~wanted~~ refused to swallow sulphur that Miss C. tried to administer as medicine. I talked with Miss C. & tried to persuade her & finally told her that if she insisted in dismissing the girl I would have to vigorously protest. Fortunately the cart driver she called to take the girl got tired waiting & left without the girl & I am glad to say she ~~was~~ is here yet in school. I was indignant at this & that together with the thought she had been complaining in so many other ways led me to write you much stronger than I should have done. I have no right to visit upon you the feelings that others stir up within me. I appreciate to some extent at least, (one must have experience to know such things) the very trying position in which you are placed. To receive & read & sift & judge all that has come to you on this question – not to mention so many others – is a most responsible & trying work. I am sorry that I have added to that trial that is upon you. Allow me at the same time to thank you for your words of encouragement & expression of confidence. The circumstances under which we have been placed have been most peculiar and trying – most trying questions to decide & no one with whom to consult &c. That you can express your confidence ~~is~~ to me, a matter of great encouragement & of devout thanks to the Lord that he has graciously kept me from making more & any greater mistakes than I have.

Yes, I am sure we will not fail to understand each other, & I thank you for your courtesy & kindness.

While on this matter may I add a word. It is a fact that Miss C. ~~as~~ you say is of a peculiar cast of mind which has been exaggerated by her feebleness

& possibly more so by the peculiar circumstances & trials to which she has been subjected. She writes from Trebizond that she now feels that the station troubles were to blame for her ill-health. ~~that may be~~. She says that the only time she had bad nights were those when these troubles were talked in Trebizond. This may be. But from the time the R's. left till Miss C. left we avoided in every possible way all conversation about those troubles. The atmosphere however was surcharged & her correspondence with Mrs R. was very extensive. I would therefore call your attention to this thought that if her disposition is so peculiar as to lead her to act as she has she may not be a fit person for missionary service. To speak plainly to you in perfect confidence that you understand me I would repeat emphatically what I wrote you some time ago that she is not a fit person to manage the work that would fall to her hands. In this respect I am sorely perplexed & I have no associate to consult with & I do not wish to bring the matter before the mission. I feel most deeply what a misfortune Miss C's. return would be. On the other hand I feel just as deeply the embarrassments attendant on her non return. It is but right that I should say this to you to let you know how I feel & believe.

judging from the past, not in the matter of these particular troubles that have perplexed us all, but in the matter of her character — trend of thought — habit of mind — method of work &c. which appear in peaceful as well as troubled times I feel quite convinced that if she returns I will have to withdraw from any connection with the girl's school even in an advisory capacity. I am more convinced of this by a letter just received from her at Trebizond. Possibly you know that for the conduct of the school we have a committee composed of Missionaries & representatives of the native communities. I have been in Erzroom nearly 15 years & I am convinced of the success of this plan & its advisibility. The breaking up of that arrangement would work very great injury to the school. I am quite certain that Miss C. could not get along with that committee — more particularly as I cannot get along with her. If I cannot, I sure they cannot & it would result in a break up & great injury.

There is also another phase of the question, and that is this. Mr. Richardson, because of recent anxieties, has took rest & change, Miss C. has to do the same. I feel that I need the same & I am quite sure Mrs Chambers does. I feel it would

5

be a great mistake - in fact a thing not to be thought of to subject Mrs. Chambers to the trial of Miss C's. presence here next winter, ~~more particularly~~ if we are here without an associate or a new associate would be as good as none. Mrs. C. would not be able to endure it & I could not think of asking her to do so. If the Macallums return it might be possible, but I have little or no hope that they would be able to get along with Miss C. any better than we have.

This much leads me to another thought. I have thought much of the "supply of room" & I can't well see how the question can be solved if we leave, unless the Ms. return. Much as I would like to go west if the way opened I can't quite see how I can leave here unless Mrs. C's. health imperatively demands it. The thought to which I wish to call your attention is this that Mrs. C. will need to be freed from all possible annoyance & trouble if she is to endure here. She declares that she cannot take a vacation alone for it would do her no good & if I can't leave she must remain.

Excuse the haste of this letter, so many things press on me that I have scarcely time to think.

With my kindest regards

Yours very truly W. A. Chambers.

[illegible] May 10. 73.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 6-3-95
Ans'd
7

Erzroom. May 11th 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr. Barton

Your favors of April 6th reporting "specials", with that of April 16 in reference to An. Mtg. re. received yesterday. Evidently I was in error in reference to the "advanced estimates" which used to be called the "max. limit of estimates". My impression was that this "max. limit" was really in the nature of the pledge — a sort of assurance to the mission that that amt. at least would be granted & anything over that was "contingent" on the condition of the treasury. An "estimate" can never be a "pledge", but ~~it~~ can it not be a quite definite indication of what the pledge will be amounting to an assurance?

I imagine you ~~were~~ are right in what used to be the practice as to intersessional vote as to time & place of An. Mtg. I wish now I had declared the vote carried. The manual requires a 5/6 vote for intersessional votes. It does not state any exception. Besides that I was not aware of the practice holding in this question, & I wanted a decisive vote as there was a good deal said of the meeting going to Van & I did not want to seem to take advantage of a doubtful vote to bring it here. Becoming convinced that all the mission was quite willing to have the meeting in Erzroom, if it was to be held at all, I have written asking that that vote be considered affirmative & inviting all delegates as our guests. I enclose a copy of my letter. I do most earnestly hope this will be acceptable & the meeting be held. However I was not a little nonplussed & discouraged today to receive an intersessional vote started by Mr. Andrus proposing that the meeting be omitted this year. This was signed in the affirmative by Andrus, Allen & Wheeler. It has in the neg. Dewey & Chambers & I think Van & Bittis will also negative it. In any case it can't receive the 5/6 vote & will not carry. But it may mean that Harpoot may not be present.

Dr. Thom votes in favor of Mr. Macallum's transfer. Everybody that voted for Mr. Mc. transfer seemed to think he was determined to leave Erzroom. Some strange impressions have gone abroad.

I hear that Mr. Sachtleben has left Bayazid for this place in search of Lenz. Lenz was shot near Koord Ali. The consul thinks he has the names of the murderers. If Sachtleben has not plenary papers I hope he will not attempt the search. If he has I will be glad to assist him all possible. Yours very truly W. L. Chambers.

J. L. B.
ec'd 6-10-'95
ns'd 11

May 17. 1895. Erzroom.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr Barton.

Your favor of April 25th received today. Your words are very encouraging to me & Mrs. Chambers. I wrote you last week acknowledging your other note on that question of Miss C's. complaint. I am sorry to have given vent to my feelings to you & demanded an apology from Miss C. As you say her letter was that of a nervous half sick woman. But there was so very much that we had silently endured & the complaint was so absolutely unjust that my patience gave out for the time. Hard as this being alone is, what a great relief it is! Thanking you again for your kind & reassuring words that incident may be counted past.

I would say a word further about Mr. Macallum's return here. He is not rugged & touring is hard. But it is not the hardness of touring that makes touring so trying, it is rather the want of care on the journey. Proper care is as necessary on the journey as at home & it eases ~~greatly~~ the burden greatly. Mr. M. has stood & would stand what touring ~~that~~ would fall to his lot by taking care of himself. The touring is not at all an element in the question. I believe that element was unduly emphasised. ~~You~~ say "we cannot promise reinforcements for Erzroom now". I can't refrain from the hint here that the best reinforcement for the work is the return of the Macallums & the non-return of Miss C. If the Ms. do not return neither should Miss C. However this question will be largely settled by the time this reaches you.

Mr. Sachtleben reached here this week. He is a nice fellow. I fear his efforts will be greatly hampered for want of backing by Mr. Terrel. We laugh at the Moslem cholera doctors examining the patient through a spyglass. We laugh at their absurd incompetency. But when that same thing appears in one of our own people & so blocks work what is necessary for us to do? As Mr. S. is here he is in communication with Mr. Worman of the Outing & no further correspondence in particular need fall to me. I think if Mr. Worman had only shown the energy he ought to have shown the case could have been settled long ago. We have been able to furnish Mr Sachtleben with all information important to the prosecution of the case. The place, time & almost the circumstances of the murder we have in hand, with the names of Koordish chief who organized the murder party & the names of several of his accomplices. The pieces of the velocipede have been offered for sale, also the rubber tires. Now the only question is sufficient authority to cause the arresting the murderers. That is the only thing lacking. If the U.S. Govt. does its duty the murderers can be at least imprisoned. The Koordish chief who organized the murder is a notorious cut throat & it would be a great relief to the country if he could be hanged.

Mr. Sachtleben is a guest with us. I have incurred no expense other than postage which is not worth while presenting. From this point Mr. S. will assume all expense. If Mr. Worman wants to recognize services he might make it possible for us to buy a good bycicle - i.e. bring the price within our means. I have long wished for one. It would be very handy here.

The work in Moosh is going along. The delegates suddenly left for Gilliagoozan & examined Semal, Shenig, & Gilliagoozan. Everything confirmined previous stories. The four pits at Gilliaguzan were found to be an actuality. The delegates have long ago been thoroughly convinced. But the question may well be shifted from Sasoon to the whole the country.

The book you sent has come to the address you sent it to. But it is retained by the wife of the man for reading. Apparently it came a week ago. I hope to get it th in a week or so.

I think I wrote you that Dr. Dillon left here last week. We were not sorry to have him go. The other man Mr. Scudamore is here & we hope he will remain. He is doing more careful work & I can't help but think very effective. The Independent has not come for two weeks. All papers are opened. I think letters are not tampered with so much.

Last news from Bitlis was May 8th. All were well. I imagine you will receive letters from there of same date.

With kindest regards
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, May 17. 95

P.S. I enclose a letter from Hoh. Agha Agajanian. He was much pleased with your note. He is gaining a high reputation. The consul says he is the only man in whom he can put perfect confidence. He has a very high opinion of him.

W. N. C.

J. L. B.
c'd 6-10-95
s'd 16

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Erzroom. May 17. 1895.

Rev J. L. Barton
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton

By yesterday's post I received an intersessional vote started from Bitlis. It read: "Owing to high prices in living these past two years, the Bitlis girls High School has fallen behind; on Miss Mary Ely's mentioning this incidentally in writing the W.B.M., their Sec. Miss Child writes her under date of Feb. 20th, "We have voted you £50 with the understanding that the mission would signify its approval". This has received 10 affirmative votes. Van is not yet heard from. It is only 5/6 of one vote short of the required 5/6 vote. Undoubtedly Van will favor it. I would judge the vote carried.

Your favor of April 16th received - reporting special.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Cheyenne, May 17. 72

J.L.B.
6-18-95
7-15

Erzroom May 25 '95.

Dear Bro Barton:

I send you one or two items to give the present outlook. The one paper is simply rough notes taken at the time of conversation. I have not time to look over & rewrite it. Possibly you can get the gist of it all. That is the Bash Chiftlik. The assistance to the Sassoon people will be most opportune. — We hear that the scheme of Reform has been submitted to His majesty & be accepted. The country is in a state of hope that scarce knows itself from fear. A foul murder of 3 Armenians was committed in Deve Boyun about 4 miles from here. The heads of two were cut off. They were seen, but later the bodies were lost. The throat of the other was cut & the face skinned that he might not be recognized. Greens book reached me all right. Mr. Lachtleben is here. He has sent a messenger to Alashkird. The people in Bitlis are in a nervous state. They seemingly have little hope of reform & so fear the consequences. I have written them encouraging them to patiently endure in the hope of better times near at hand.

We are usually well.

Yours most truly W. N. Chambers.

J. L. B.
Rec'd
Ans'd 7-15-95

Erzroom. May 30. 1895.

J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr. Barton

Your favor of May 6th at hand this week. I am glad to be able to say that the time for An. Mtg is fixed. The mission has given assent to my proposition & Erzroom July 17th indicates the place & time. Mardin & Harpoot voted for the 17th. Bitlis for the 10th & Van for the 1st. So it goes to the 17th. We now will wait & see if traveling is possible by that time.

The other day I had a long talk with Mr. Graves on the situation in Bitlis the result of which was that he sent a tel asking that it be transmitted to the Legation & Bible House. The gist of it was that unless protection could be assured to the Bitlis missionaries they had better remove at once to Erzroom on pretext of attending An. Mtg. This great delay is developing very considerable danger. If those reforms were put into execution at once there would be little danger, but the situation is getting very touch again. If the delegates leave without assurances of protection undoubtedly not a few poor people will suffer & the Messrs. at B. among them. It is our hope that Terrell may do what is

necessary & secure proper protection for Bitlis
missy. There is a mysterious movement of troops
here & every body is on the qui vive. Truly no one
knows what tomorrow may bring forth. I
enclose a card which speaks for itself. We are
now the long lost & new found brethren i.e. missys.
in particular, & Ams. in general.

To recur to another question. I received
a long letter fr. Miss C. proposing an understanding
as you & the ladies urged her to return. I have
written her frankly my feeling & judgement. Her
letter though an honest effort on her part yet only
serves to confirm me in what I have already written
you. I have written her saying in short that
facts are to be carefully considered & not per-
sonal feelings of sentiment or preference. It is
a fact that the past has shown that our
association is productive of no good. Neither
she herself, nor either of us is in condition to en-
dure last winter over again. If the mission
can release me the way will open to her. If the
mission does not release me then I advise
her not to return to Erzroom both for her own sake
& for ours. I have no hope that her health would
stand the strain, I feel the same for myself, & have

sure that Mrs. Chambers could not endure. Now please do not urge Miss C's. return. Let her remain in Trebizond if possible. If we leave the supply question belongs to the mission & you. If we must remain then let us have peace. I tell you it is happiness to be driven with work when that work is free from the kind of worry of which we have all endured so much in the past. It was a most painful thing for me to write Miss C. as I did. But I am very sure that this course though in appearance harsh & cruel, is the less painful of the two.

Will you loose patience with me? Why is it that I have to take this stand? Why is it that we have to beg & entreat for the return of the Macallums, & possibly be refused, & at the same time beg for the non-return of Miss C. & possibly in that case be refused also? We beg to be transferred & possibly that will be refused also. Is it that I ask amiss?

We are in usual health.
Yours in Duty
W. N. Chambers.

P.S. I enclose a card sent to me this morning with the Woman's Column. It speaks volumes. The feeling is very strong on the part of the Gregorians the blessings pronounced on missys. are more than the hairs of your head. (By the way aren't you a bit bald) the Bishop has been to call on me four times in a very short time. the expression of gratitude are profound. May God lead on to great things!

W.H.C.

J. L. B.
'd 7-5-95
'd 15

Erzroom. June 10. 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton.

By this post I hand you the Tab. View Summary for the mission. It indicates both gains & losses. It is encouraging in this that the losses are not as great as one would have anticipated considering the amount of retrenchment on the part of the Board & also the most unfavourable state of the country. There is a slight decrease from last year in the number of workers, in the number under instruction & in the contributions. the financial condition of the Board & the country would account for these losses. Under these circumstances it is encouraging to see that increase has been had in the matter of Average Sab. Congn., and also in the number received into church membership. Though the entire showing is not entirely satisfactory, yet it is an encouraging showing taking everything into consideration. I have just glanced at the footings for '91 & find that workers have decreased by 15 since then. Contributions however have greatly increased.

I send you this by registered post for there is considerable doubt of the safety of the post more particularly of letters appear large.

This awful strain continues. the effect must be experienced to be understood. Both Ts & As. are sick with anxiety & expectancy. Every day adds to the danger of the situation. Both parties have been well under restraint up to the present time. But hope at last gives way & exasperated despair or reckless bravado, & it will be no surprise if blood flows again if there is much longer delay. In fact blood has been spilled already. Last Sunday a company of As. crossed over from Russia. the reports as to the number vary. Some say 7. Some say 11. They were armed. They were surrounded by Turkish villages & soldiers on the Turkish side of the boundary. Four were killed, one escaped, the others are missing - either killed or taken prisoner. Farther east on the Alashgird boundary 21 As. are said to have been killed. Every effort has been exerted by those who could to keep those "society fellows" quiet & for a time they were so. But the time is rapidly passing when that is possible.

Just this moment a poor old Bassoon woman has left my room. She was the wife of the head of a family of 30 they had 200 sheep. several yoke of oxen. a comfortable home & much money. Now she is a miserable beggar one of the remnant of that once prosperous household. It curdles one's blood to think what she has seen and experienced. And yet there is awful doubt as to the efficiency of the proposed reforms. This atmosphere has a strange effect on one.

The other day I received a letter from the preacher of Mooch. He gives the condition of the people in Sassoon. You have heard from the British missionaries also. Has anything been contributed for relief? The people are dying. Some are going into voluntary slavery with the Koords & this means slavery. The good old father of Arakelots monastery has sold the effects of the monastery on the ground that if reforms are established & the destroyed villages rebuilt the monastery will flourish, if not the effects of the monastery will only go as plunder to the Koords. So he has taken the responsibility to use all he could turn into money for the starving people. He wrote the man at Mooch asking him to borrow 20£. He on his part in company with a friend borrowed 100£ & says when that is done he will borrow more. He remarks "trusting in God & the benevolence of friends we hope you will be able to release us from this debt." Here is faith in America. Is this not a noble act?

It is not ordinarily a good thing to incur debt. But here is a man without $10. draws at sight on the Lord's bank in America for $1000. Who will honor the Lord & commend such faith by cashing the draft? Let us make a calculation on very low figures. The slaughter in Sassoon can't have had much below 10,000 victims. Let us say that half the population was put to the sword or taken into slavery. As fire & sword swept through the district there was left only the desolation of a burned out district after a terrible conflagration. The remnant of the population say 8,000 were suddenly cast homeless & penniless & almost naked into other districts that were suffering famine stress. These people are wanderers today. Seed time is almost past. Were it possible for them to return to their fields they have no habitations, no implements, no animals, no seed, no food. What is to be done for them? I gave this poor old woman a few piasters. Raising her eyes & hands to heaven she prayed "May God bless you, sir. May the light of heaven shine upon you. May you have freedom & enjoy plenty. May Jesus keep you from all want. May the Lord reward you." This may appear rather Oriental in its profuseness. Ordinarily it it would have appeared so to me. But I believe it welled up as expression of deep gratitude from the heart of this aged & sorely stricken woman whose ~~whose~~ untellable sorrows were yet fresh upon her. She is one of a multitude. $10,000 would be a help. Send what you possibly can.

Our papers are being stopped. We have not received the Independent & Christian Work for a month. No word from Bitlis last week & nothing from Van for two weeks.

We are usually well. I presume the Macallum question is settled by this time & I fear he remains at Marash. Harpoot telegraphs that they can't come to An. Mtg. We will have a small meeting if any. I find it exceedingly hard to reconcile myself to this. I am writing Dr. Barnum that I cannot be content to remain here simply on the assurance contained in the remark "I hope you'll remain" made by some of the brethren. I feel that the mission ought to express itself. It ought either to endorse me, or it ought to make provision for the work. Seeing that the meeting was so long delayed I felt compelled to write Miss Chambers as I did. The mission ought to

Take note of this.

June 15. P.S. Your favor of May 17. came this morning. I had already taken the gist of the letter you enclose, I think it was in the Independent, & gave it as a monthly concert talk a couple of weeks ago pressing every point in order. I will take this as a more official communication & use it as you suggest.

I do hope the mission will come to meeting. Dr. B. is hopeless of the possibility. Truly this delay in reforms is most trying & depressing. But more than a month has past & I cant but believe that a change will be inaugurated in time for the mtg. Miss C. writes that as I have received an invitation fr. the W.Y.M. she supposes I will go. I do not see that it is an invitation that I can take action on. Had it been a direct invitation I would have put the question before the mission. But I can do nothing till the mtg. & then as I understand it the question as presented is not ~~in~~ my hands. I understand that my name was mentioned as touring missy. for Cple. if I had to leave Ezm.

The matter of the Brd. Dept. of the School will have to close for lack of funds. The appr. is already consumed & unless some "special" comes in I do not see how it can continue even if Miss C. returns. I enclose a note to Dr. Worman which you may read if you have time & forward. It is a pity that Sachtleben does not get the authority necessary. Yours resp. truly W. L. Chambers

Erzroom, June 10. 1896.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 7-13-95
Ans'd

Erzroom - June 23. '95.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton.

I received the following from Moosh from the preacher there. It is signed by the preacher, Hohannes Vartabed of Arakelots monastery & Vartan Vartabed.

It is well know how the unfortunate remnant of the Sassoon people are scattered abroad - miserable homeless, naked, hungry & oppressed.

The people of Moosh & the villages have done their utmost to help. But their condition is little better than those of Sassoon. Therefore it is impossible for them to do more to rescue the famishing people.

The result will be death to many of those who are suffering. The accompanying list will speak more eloquently than our pens. These are the names of 65 persons who have perished by famine & exposure. (These death occurred in Gelliegoozan, Shenik, Semal Aghpee, & Hetenk. W.L.C.) How many have perished in this way is unknown.

Therefore taking into consideration the most bitter condition of these wretches; considering the inability of the people of Moosh to render enough assistance, & remembering that death is on the increase we come to invite the benevolence of our fellow men in the name of God to come to our assistance in rescuing the wretched remnant of Sassoon.

Your mites will save lives. You will wipe away the tears of parents bereft of their children, of orphans, of men who have been tortured with fire & sword.

You who in your open handed benevolence have rendered your blessed assistance to the miserably oppressed of Africa, Asia & the Isles of the Sea we beg you in the name of the Crucified One stretch forth your hands in help to these perishing people.

Hohannes Vartabedian

Signed: H. Merzoian. Hoh. V. Var^{n}. Var.^{ed} Vartan Vart

I send this. You have heard from Mr Cole. He is in Moosh. The suffering is terrible. If you get anything telegraph either here or to the Bitlis missionaries through Mr Peet. I wrote you last week on this subject. We wait in hope.

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, June 23, 1895.

J. L. B.
7-18 95
29

Erzroom. June 29. 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton

For three posts we have nothing from you. Your last received was May 17. I have written you two or three appeals from Sassoon. To day I have only time for a word on station - or rather mission affairs. An. Mtg. has failed. I have no further hope & I am turning my thoughts to other things. In this case you people at Boston will have to give the decision. I have no further information to give. I had depended much on An. Mtg. to carefully consider this Ezm. question on the ground here and decide or recommend something. I am anxious about my wife's health, but can't get any professional advice. This strain of isolation together with the condition of suspense in the country is trying in the extreme. However that is less than the strain of uncongenial surroundings such as held in the past. I could persuade Mrs. C. to go away for the winter on condition that I should follow in the spring. But she is not willing to go & return, i.e. if she can remain permanently she need not go for an unsatisfactory change & I think she is right. There then is the case of Mrs C. I trust you have understood my position.

Past experience only leads me to emphasize that position. I cannot consent to work with her & I trust no suggestion ever of that will be thought of. As I have always said I will give place, I will not work with her. I merely repeat this much to let you know that after these weeks my mind has not changed except in the matter of stronger conviction.

I presume you have letters from the other stations as to Erzroom supply. I hoped to have time to write you a little at length of the importance of Erzroom & of the probable increased importance of it. As Frances remarked the other "You ought to have three men one of whom ~~should~~ be a physician. That's what I would like to see here. But I have no more time now. Mrs Chambers has not been well for a couple of days.

Yours very truly,
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, June 24. 1896.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 8-1-95
Ans'd 14

Erzroom. July 4th 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton,

I have been trying to write you for two weeks the result of a conference I had with Mr. Graves some two weeks ago. It arose out of the question of the distribution of relief in Sassoon. You will know that the suggestion was made to Sir Philip Currie that Mr. Cole obtain official permission to visit Sassoon for that work. The contributions increasing the idea developed to make the relief work extensive & Dr. Raynolds name was suggested to help Mr. Cole. Mr. Graves called me & we had a long conversation over the question the gist of which I want to give you as it was very interesting to me. I realized that missionaries had been credited with doing good work & were held in high esteem by Mr. G. & his colleagues, but I had not thought that the esteem was quite so high. He told me of the telegram he had received that afternoon reporting 1000 £ Str. & suggesting Dr. R. b.p on the Comn. He then put the question somewhat as follows. Expressing his great gratification that the missionaries were proposed as almoners of the fund he said that this afforded the missionaries an opportunity of establishing of a firmer basis the honorable reputation they had already won & increasing the the sympathy for them already developed. This work placed in their hands afforded them a good opportunity to increase their influence in the land & they not only had the perfect right to use it in that way, but were in duty bound to do so. He thought it would completely kill - as he hoped it would - that old libel on Prots. that a man who became a Prot. thereby became lost to his nation. It would obliterate that distinction. And Protestantism would be held in the regard it ought to be as being thoroughly patriotic. He complimented Missionaries & the Protestant Community for the leading position they had taken in this question - "they are on the top of the wave. Let them by all means retain that position". He expressed his opinion that it would be unwise for me to leave this place alone & go down to Moosh. "We can't spare you", & you can't leave your work". But he enquired if it was not possible to get someone to come here for the summer so as to free me to go down to Moosh & work on the Com^{n} of relief. He was desirous that I should go, if such arrangement could be made. After a good deal of canvassing of the question I finally authorized him to telegraph to Sir P. Currie to represent to the Bible House people the need & importance of the question

& urge them to ask my brother to come & spend the summer here & so release me to go to Moosh. I trust my brother may see his way clear to come. It is the great opportunity of this decade for this work & we ought to take advantage of it. It is a fact that the people of all classes are full of gratitude. The other day the Bishop called me in & informed me of the good success attending the effort to raise a subscription for Sassoon relief & he asked me to write to Mr. Cole to supervise the distribution of it.

It was a great gratification to me to hear these opinions expressed & echoed by the other two Englishmen present.

I have received from Mr. Knapp a long paper criticising the scheme of reforms as it was rumored before the actual scheme was published which the Sultan rejected. Possibly I am too sanguine, but I must say I cannot agree with Mr. Knapp, nor yet with the position that Dr. Barnum seems to have taken. A good many of Mr. Knapp's positions are taken it seems to me because of the lack of full information or because he fails to judge properly the spirit of both British & Russian. Possibly my confidence is stronger because I know the Englishmen here & the spirit that animates them. They *thoroughly* understand the whole question in its transcending importance & tremendous difficulties. They have both had experience in the country & have given the question careful study & know it well. The men in Cple. seem to be in earnest, & the country seems to be at their back. This is the first thing that differentiates the present situation from all that has gone before. In the second place the three powers are working in concert. The French & Russian having put their seals to the scheme of reform can't oppose its execution as they did formerly. They may be indifferent, but they cannot actively oppose it. This is a great point gained & if England keeps up her zeal, as I believe she will, the success of the scheme, as far as European control is concerned, is assured. This scheme lacking as it is in many points is such that if the foreign control for which it provides active will secure to the Armenians a position they have never had before & taking advantage of which they will improve year by year. It therefore depends for success on the active control provided for, & the proper & courageous attitude of the Armenians. It is not worth as much as we wish it were, but if it is worked for what it is worth it will be worth a very great deal. Mr. Knapp seems to think that the English are not in earnest. I believe they are. If he is right the scheme will fail. If I am right it will succeed. It has to be proved yet, & this scheme is our best hope.

Then Mr. Knapp seems to think that Russian occupation would be tolerable & an improvement on the T. I do not believe that. There is nothing to hope from Russia in the way of concession. No country yet annexed to Russia has continued to enjoy any special privileges. There is no ground whatever to hope this country would enjoy the privileges she does now were she under Russian rule.

Mr. Knapp seems to think that the Turkish power should be obliterated. This also seems to me an untenable position. The ideal would be that. But ideals are not always practical. There must be the semblance of government at least. If the Turk is put out who will take his place. He can hold the nominal authority, & the real authority be in the hands of Europe & Armenia. England can't take over the country, Russia should not, & the Armenians are at least a generation distant from autonomy.

I jot down these hasty thoughts thinking that possibly Mr. K. & Dr. B. may have expressed their views & as mine seemed to differ I wanted to place them in outline before you.

The country is in a dreadful condition & every day's delay adds to the distress. We hope this is a case of "slow but sure" progress. The Bulgarian question may bother this.

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July 5.

Your favors of May 21. June 7 (2 letters) & June 12. came to hand this morning. Some time ago I received a telegram ~~about~~ from Mr. Macallum & we have boxed up his things & I think they will be on the way in a few days. I have expressed myself on this question & now as it is an accomplished fact nothing more need be said. I greatly regret the loss to Erzroom.

I have also informed you of the situation as regards An. Mtg. As there is to be no An. Mtg. those questions to which you refer must be settled in some other way. I am at loss what steps to take as to Miss Chambers. I can but confirm what I have already written. How the mission can take action I do not know. It would be unsatisfactory if taken because I presume any vote would not receive a 5/6 vote. You ~~at~~ Boston would have to do as you did in the Macallum case. You had better decide this case if it is not already decided. If Miss C. has asked for a transfer to Trebizond & Trebizond favors possibly that is the easiest way out of the difficulty. Her return here - apart from our attitude would not be wise. The school term is just closing & one of the teachers declared "If Miss C. returns I will not." I must confess I had a tremendous sympathy with the teacher. Were I in her place I would not either. Apparently Mr. Cole has written you about a thousand he had – That is he suggests that Dr. Parmelee exchange with me. I do not wish to say anything about Dr. P. I wrote Mr. Cole that as far as I was personally concerned I would not choose to go to Trebizond. If I should leave Erzroom I would not stop in Trebizond unless it was absolutely necessary. If the financial element would enter into the question, it seems to me Constple. station should be supplied at the expense of Trebizond. I may express my opinion to you which is that I would not at all favor Dr. P's coming here.'

Now as to the supply of Erzroom let me express myself freely to you. I must confess that I see that my departure is very close on the impossible. As an outsider would look at the question had he the information I have I think he would say that my leaving would have a bad effect. It would be depressing after this long time since last years trouble & since that is removed to make further changes in the station. The minds of all are now centered on the burning question of the day the people look to me a great deal for council. Such a change would be hard to explain & might shake confidence. Not only so but Mr Graves who is heartily interested in the welfare of the country has expressed himself in a very kindly way urging that we should at this time have two more men one of whom should be a physician.

On the other hand there is my wife's health. I can get no medical advice about that & so cannot say definitely about it. Only to say that my anxiety does not decrease as time passes. She may pull through this winter without much injury, but her palpitations are on the increase & greatly take her strength so that she is a good while getting over the ~~wea~~ exhausting effect of ~~an~~ palpitation. I do wish we could get medical advice.

We do not know whether to rejoice or not over the announcement of a new associate this fall. The past has been so disappointing & trying. However that feeling of ours must not interfere with this work. There ought to be two more men here. Do your utmost to get a first class man & woman here. Erzroom in all probability will be a center of great importance in the near future. This work ought to be thoroughly in hand & aggressive. If a Dr. would come in this fall it would be the best thing.

I hope to have the estimates & Station report ready by next post. Schools close then & I may be delayed a week.

With my kindest regards
Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom [illegible]

Rec'd
Ans

J. L. B.
Rec'd 8-12-95
Ans'd 14

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Erzroom. July. 20. '95.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

An Intersessional vote reached me fr. Bitlis last Sunday. It reads: "Voted: - that we approve the application of Harpoot Station for an appropriation of Fifty Liras from the Womans Board, for the Girls Boarding Dept. of Euphrates College."

This has received 8 votes in the aff. & 3 in neg. with Van to be heard from. If Van votes in the affirmative it will have received 10 votes, Eleven are necessary to carry. Besides this one member of the mission (Dr. T.) questions the right of Mr. Ellis to vote according to new Handbook. This point once made should be noted. Miss Pratt votes but no other lady missionary. She does so "under protest", as does also Mr Andrus. This raises a point. Are all the lady missionaries to be counted in such a questions as this?. Only Miss Pratt votes. According to the new Handbook all have the right to vote. Must they be counted?

The Misses Ely are on their way. Last heard from them were at Moosh. We expect them at any moment. We have joined forces with Mr. Graves & are out on the plain in tents. We were too few to go to the old place 40 miles. I hope you have gotten my letters about Sassoon suffering. Obstacles were put in the way of of Mr Cole & Dr. R. in relief work. But they are being well backed up by Currie. The new consul, Mr. Hampson, started down to Moosh on Tuesday. He will likely ~~have~~ reach today. This delay in the plan is most distressing. We hope for a change for the better in a week or 10 days.

We are usually well. Last letter from you was June 12. 95. Mr. Sachtleben is still with us. I may run down to Alashgird with him if he gets permission.

Yours in haste,
W. N. Chambers.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 8-23-95
Ans'd

Erzroom. July 27. 95.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr. Barton.

This week again no letter from you. I hope your letters are not going astray. Your last was June 12th.

The Com^{n}. came in from Mooch on Thursday the 25th. there was quite a demonstration – a large detachment of the military, both infantry & cavalry paraded – two bands & a large crowd of citizens. They had a large escort of regular cavalry & Hamediehs from Mooch. The European delegates are in good form after their 6 mos. of such hard trying work & discomfort. The Turkish commissioners are much more used up. The Com^{n}. is a thing of the past, but it has served the question well. It must have a powerful effect. Evidently the Com^{rs}. have done all they possibly could to cover up the horrible blood stains on the Turkish uniform. Their attempts have only added to the glaringness of it all. The delegates on the other hand have evidently proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that those horrible stains are the innocent blood of men women & children slaughtered in horrible carnage of blood. The only doubt that appears in their conversations is that possibly the number of victims may have been exaggerated very slightly - but that is a hazy doubt. But that a most inhuman slaughter of Armenians - including men women & children - attended with all sorts of unspeakable outrage & cruelty was carried on for three dreadful weeks is proved to the very hilt - there cannot be the shadow of a doubt cast upon it. What is more, the delegates of the three powers are unanimous in this.

The coming of the Comn. was preceded by 20 hours by the release of most of the political prisoners in accordance with the general amnesty of immediate execution. 35 were released from this prison. Some of the poor fellows sat & laughed & wept by turns. Bedros Atamian of Tchemeshgezek has just been to see me. He asked for all the Hpt. missionaries, you included & expressed his deep gratitude. He has been in 7 years & 8 mos. These three days have been ones of considerable interest and excitement. The American Armenian Harootune Simonian is not out yet. However he may be shortly. Terrell's attention has been called to him & he is safe enough. There is also a Russian Armenian named Archaff & two Sasounlees still in. The Narman men are still in.

There has been much speculation as to the reason why these prisoners were released. We judge that the Eng. Govt. having gotten into shape again has taken up the question & is pushing it. This has given the people much hope.

You will have heard from Mr. Cole & Dr. Raynolds in Semal. The relief work is meeting with very great opposition. It ought to be backed up vigorously. I believe the the Eng. Amb. is doing so, the Consuls are heartily interested in it & if their efforts will secure success it will succeed, but they need backing. Apparently little has come from America. 2000 £ at least is necessary to do anything of permanent value. Let Am. do her share. I have forwarded to you several appeals.

You will have received word of a suggestion concerning supply of Erzroom to the effect that Dr. Parmelee come here & I go there. I have written to the effect that I would not remain at Trebizond, if I left Erzroom, unless it seemed absolutely necessary to do so. The need in the Cple. station I would judge to be greater than in Treb. If Dr. P. should leave T. that place could remain vacant with less injury than Nicomedia. Besides my own feeling in reference to Treb. is that it could be worked from some other place easily, more especially under the present financial straits. It is for you & the mission to judge of Dr. P's. coming. I doubt if he would choose to come. In this connection Mr. Dewey writes suggesting that the new man for E.T.M. to take Mr. Gates place might better come to Erzroom as Ezm. is in greater need than Mardin. This is a very generous thought on the part of Mr. Dewey. I would call your attention to it, & suggest that if two men have not be found that this man be sent to Erzroom, ~~soon~~ if your judgment would approve. I also suggest this. The work here is onerous. It is impossible for one man to keep up with it as it ought to be done. I would like to have a general helper at least for a year. I think such a plan would accomplish nearly as much work at less than half the expense. Another I would remind you of the suggestion for a medical man for Erzroom, or if not that a lady physician.

Mr. Allen of Van has written you making dissent to my interpretation of the resolution of the Mardin meeting in reference to the apportionment of estimates. He thinks the resolution is not operative till passed on by an. meet. As it was worded that in case 1/4 of the members of the mission did not file their dissent with the mission clerk before March 1st. the new scheme would be operative for the estimates for 1896. This dissent was not made & the new scheme became operative, at least that was my judgment. There being no An. Mtg. the report was made to the mission. Discussion would have been opened if dissent had been made. Dissent not being made the question was not open to discussion. It seems to me that this is the natural interpretation of the resolution & of the mind of the meeting at Mardin. However there is the point of the report being made to An. Mtg. which seems to me a minor matter, as the report was made to the mission. I will not object to get back for Ezroom what the new scheme takes away - not very much, but something in these times of distress. When I send on my estimates I will ask you to add the amount that would fall to Ezm. if the old scheme of apportionment is adhered to.

The Misses Ely are here & we are enjoying their visit exceedingly. This evening we are all invited to dine with the Bishop - who has become exceedingly friendly.

Mr. Sachtleben is still here. He sees the Govr. this afternoon. Mr. Terrell telegraphed Mr S. to wait & he waits for word from Terrell - & none comes. We judge that

Mr. Chilton is on his way here as letters have come to his address. We have no word of him however further than that he had left U.S. about June 23rd this was a telegram in the "Times".

The Independent was mutilated again this week.

We went out to tents for a week. The Eng. Consul & we camped together. But it was so cold & rainy that we decided to come in to town again & receive our guests - the Misses Ely - in town. The other morning the therm. stood at 52°. at 7 a.m. It is difficult to get out of the city to tents - we are so few & the state of the country is unsafe. The week out did us all much good though we shivered most of the time

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, July 27. 1896 -

J. L. B.
Rec'd 8-30-95
Ans'd

Erzroom. Aug 8. 95.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr. Barton,

I am not sure that I reported the vote in reference to a vacation for the Misses Ely. This vote received the signatures of eleven gentlemen & two ladies. It may be considered as heartily endorsed by the mission. The ladies left here for Trebizond this morning. They had a good rest here & we enjoyed their visit of two weeks very greatly indeed. They are in much need of the change.

I think I reported upon the vote on the 60 £ for the girls' Boarding Dept. of Euphrates College. This received the signatures of six gentlemen & one lady in the affirm. Two of these put "under protest" opposite their names. It received three signatures of gentlemen in the Neg. I would judge this to have failed to receive the endorsement of the mission.

This week brings in the final returns on the vote asking the P.C. to endorse Dr. Thom to visit America this fall for vacation & bring back his family. This receives the signatures of eleven gents. & the P.C. is requested to endorse the visit.

Just here comes in a question. Some

ladies vote & the majority does not. On what basis should a vote be computed? Either all the ladies should be held liable to vote & all counted, or none should vote, & none should be counted. On a vote of importance it might be troublesome. Else we should go on the basis of counting only those who are accustomed to vote. The Mardin ladies are the only ones so far.

Later. This post brings in a vote in reference to a vacation for Mrs Cole & children. She proposes to take the children to U.S. Nellie is in her 13th year. They ask the trip to be endorsed for "possibly during this season". Mr. Cole asks authority to escort them to C'ple. & to secure some dental work done there. I have not the Van vote on this. All the rest of the members sign excepting Mr. Cole himself & Mr. Gates. I have no doubt that Van will favor it & it is virtually carried. I will report Van's vote on its arrival. There are ten votes in favor. This lacks one of the requisite number. However I would judge that Mr. Cole will not go this fall. If he continues his relief work in Sassoon he can't get away till next Spring. I presume you will hear directly from him.

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Aug. 8. 93

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J. L. B.
Rec'd 8-31-95
Ans'd

Erzroom, Aug. 8. 95

Camp "Ishté."
Erzroom Aug. 9th 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton,

Your favors of July 17th & 15th came to hand today. The petition of the Y.P.S.C.E. ought to have a grand moral effect. It is a grand thing to get so many young people & their elder companions so thoroughly aroused in reference to this question. The more I hear of the Commn. accompanied by European delegates the more I am impressed with its almost perfect success. The course adopted by the Commission with the intention of whitewashing the Govt. was the best way possible to show the T. in his true light. True to their nature & spirit they did their best to establish a lie – to prove black white, to convince the world that foul hellish massacre of human beings was the execution of justice. The delegates on the other hand proved the falsity of the whole Turkish position & have made a very strong report signed by all three. The great point is that they have established the fact that the scheme was a deep laid plot for three or four years. The Eng. delegate has proved himself a good man.

The state of the country is worse & worse, But I suppose it will be so till it begins to get better.. In our encampment there are two Turkish officers. Their servants are nearly all soldiers. Yesterday Talcott was standing near some soldiers when one of them handling his sword said "Arminiler kesmek ichun bu chok guzel bir kilidg dir" "This is a good sword to kill Arminians" Talcott turned to him & pointing to an Armenian standing by said "oeley iseh, ishte, bir Armini, nechun kesmezsin" = "if so, here is an Arminian, why don't you kill him?" You can realize how shocking this kind of thing ought to be, & to have a young boy hear such things & say such words is painful. But it is in the atmosphere & you might as well hope to avoid fever ~~by~~ while breathing foul air, as to avoid these words & thoughts.

I enclose my Station report. I hope it is not too late. I will try & get off the estimates for the Station next week. I have to do my work by piece meal & I find it difficult to get it through quickly. It makes me almost sick to think that 1/3 of Aug. is gone. The report fr. the relief com. at Sassoon is quite hopeful, now that the Eng. Consul has gone into the districts.

I think I am glad of the news that the P.C. has decided to send a new man to E.T.M. with the need of Ezroom in view. I am sure it is the right course to take. But you know that sometimes our hope is near akin to fear. I wrote you last week something about it. As to the location I passed on Mr. Dewey's observations which possibly he wrote you directly. Your suggestions are very good, though I do not see where the man you suggest is to come from. No other station can spare a man. I have a fancy that if Van could loan us Miss Fraser for a school year we could arrange our work very nicely. If that could be a new man could do some work in school to his own advantage. In that way the entire school work of the city might be taken off my hands & leave me free for all the rest of the work. I would be glad to have Miss Fraser look after the boy's school & I think it would work well. In the matter of the new man learning the language that matter could be. be understood, if he is a man to understand it. Mr. R. I believe complained that he was forced into work before he got the language. That is a misstatement. I possibly should of gone on with the work without so much reference to time, but I think the way I took was the the surest way to help secure the amount of peace we lack. By a new man being ready to help out a little in school work I could arrange for him to have all the rest of his time for his study as far as station work is concerned. I anticipate much less of extraneous work the coming winter than we had on hand this past winter. We can't tour much for lack of funds. Besides I feel strongly this that it would probably be better for a new man be stationed at Erzroom to study Erzroom methods before studying other station methods. I think there is little radical difference in the methods & it would come easier to introduce change, if that were needed, after this had been carefully studied first & afterwards compared with other places. I would say that if a new man is coming he might as well come here directly, unless you have in mind some one who would suit better that has had experience.

I wish to make two suggestions. If possible let the new man be a physician. If that can't be & Miss Frazer cannot come from Van, we would be delighted to have Dr. Kimball for a year. I mentioned Miss Fraser first simply with the thought of the school work in mind. Dr. Kimball would want to practice. We are in tents & enjoy the change. It will do us good

With kindest regards

Yours very respectfully W. L. Chambers.

In Camp Erzroom. Aug 13th 1895

Rev. J. L. Barton. D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton.

Last week I forwarded to you the Station Report & forgot the Report on woman's work prepared by Miss Chambers. I enclose that this week.

I trust you will find the estimates intelligible, & not far wrong in form. As each station will likely forward its own estimates to you I would suggest that when the apprs. are being made out a full copy for the mission be sent on for the mission files, as the estimates may not find a place there.

It is impossible to make up contingents with any reference to the percentage of apportionment. And By the way I trust you will keep in mind that if the _old_ _percentage_ is to hold according to Mr. H. M. Allen's contention you are to _restore_ _our_ _loss_. You may place the restoration on Erzroom's Boys High School. I have made up these estimates on the basis of the new percentage proposed at Mardin in '94.

I can better explain the estimates by calling your attention to the Contingent list.

The first items there are those for the Boys School, the amt. asked for there is 36 L. this amount is an absolute necessity. I have continued the school on specials & will continue in the hope that either the Board itself or specials will supply the lack. I can more easily contemplate the closing the school, than the curtailment of it.

The item for Evangelist Zohrab of Russia is to increase his salary. He has worked most devotedly & feels the pinch greatly. He could command a large salary in other ways, but I believe him to be a really devoted man & it would be a great satisfaction to afford him at least this much relief.

The next item is for the "bal." of sal. for Bad Bolhos of Khanoos. this man has worked in this field for over a score of years & has become. He has become a sort of father to the people. We have had to reduce the workers & are anxious to retain him as an overseer of the work of the district. He resides in Hiravik & we can put only inexperienced teachers in some of the places & his services should not be dispensed with. Chevermeh & Khozloot have been promising places, But the state of the country has almost wrecked them, the people say in this time of our poverty & trouble you should not leave us. The same may be said of Komatsor. When we cut off the sal. of the teacher of this place, he decided to continue any way till Spring. He could at least get his food in the village in some way. Later the people, both Gregorian & Protestant, arranged to give him some godes of grain at the time of harvest if he would continue. This amount is such ~~that~~ I would be ashamed to ask a man to accept. I would be glad at the close of the year to give him something not as salary, but as a recognition of his work done worthily.

Colportage is already involved & I at first thought of cutting it all out - liability & all, but it would not cut. So 11 £ appear in reg. estimate although it ought to be 30 £.

The people in Kars are very anxious to have a preacher. There is a good opening & promising field & growing work. In Kemakh & Passen because of the distress & high prices the pastors have had a hard time, & the people have failed to redeem their promises. Relief for the pastors looking to the hard times would give great encouragement & impetus to work. When a man becomes involved through no fault of his own it is a great worry to him to make both ends meet & do his pastoral work at the same time. The Passen evangelist sustained great injury in this way (financially) as well as in every other by the murder of his wife last fall.

The money has been expended for the Zodoveren Repairs me would be glad to be relieved of that burden. I think I informed you that the Touring ap. was involved ~~to~~ a year ago (before Mr. Richardson & Mr Macallum left) to the entire amount of this year's appropriation. So I have had no funds this year. I intend to put forth every effort to make a tour of the entire field this fall. This will involve some expense. I will have to draw on next year's approp. for this work. If it is at all possible I must personally visit the outstations & see the work at whatever cost.

As to postage I may say that we have had scarcely enough to pay charges from Constantinople. This year correspondence has been very heavy & in some cases very expensive because I have registered many of my letters. So I have had to meet not only the expense of my own personal correspondence, but of the station & what has been involved in mission clerk work, for the most part from my own pocket.

I hope the estimates for work for women may find acceptance. The estimates put the work in about the shape it is at present. I put in a contingent. Sr Samaghar is a woman who was formerly a Bible Reader. She married & her husband died. She can now take up the work again which would be a good thing. I wish we had a good experienced

Bible Reader for this city. Looking to the fact that I am alone in the station I would suggest that I might have the right of more native help. This I ought to have whether a new man comes this fall or not.

You will realize the very extreme leanness of these estimates. The exhausted state of the country here & the very great need of pushing this work urge me to appeal & plead for more funds. But I remember the state of the Board's treasury & that you realize the need here as well as we do & so the plea struggling for utterance [illegible] is relegated back to the recesses of ones own heart there to keep alive the worrying pain of the past. Our only plea must be for more patient endurance under heavy trial - a patient waiting on the Lord which will always renew strength.

With the earnest prayer that the churches may both bless & be abundantly blessed in their gifts & that the Lord may have in store for us, in the near future, infinitely more than we can think I would respectfully submit the Erzroom estimates for 1896

Yours sincerely

W. N. Chambers.

(over)

P.S. In the Salary estimate I have called attention to the fact that our youngest child will be 7 years old in the Spring. That would entitle her to 10 per cent. I put in the estimate only 5 per cent. & request that if the Com. consider it legitimate the estimate may be increased by 5 per cent. of the original sal. i.e. 8.85 £. making the sal. to 212.40 instead of 203.50 £.

Miss Chambers is quite in debt. She would have applied to the meeting of the mission for relief had there been one. As there was none she has not been able to get mission action on the point. She proposed to ask for a special grant of (Twenty) 20 £. for the current year. I have not included this in the estimate, but simply mention it here so that if she decides to have it go in you may know that it has my endorsement. In some way she is in debt, & she cannot get out of it for a long time. Wherever she may be it would be a great relief to her to have the debt cancelled. I presume she will write you.

If it is possible to afford me an assistant I would be glad of 50 £. at least. Such a man could do much touring & other work & greatly relieve me. I have not the man in mind for I have had no hope of getting the appr. I think I can find the man if I had the money. W. N. Chambers.

P.S. I have put into Miscellaneous of work for women tax of the building occupied by the girls' schools & repairs for same. I think this is quite legitimate & the women's Board ought to provide the funds though the property is held in a missionary's name for the Am. Board. The item Touring is not only for that particular work but for travelling ex of teachers of girls schools &c.

W.N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Aug. 13, 1895.
Rec'd Sept. 7.

Erzroom Aug. 25. 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Barton,

Your favor of July 29th received yesterday. It leads me to repeat in part what I have already written. The Trebizond scheme does not recommend itself to me at all as far as it concerns us. I would not have the slightest desire to settle in Trebizond, in fact quite the opposite. That work has no attractions for me at all. And if Mr. Parmelee should leave Trebizond, under the present financial stress Trebizond could be worked from C'ple, or Marsovan. The need in C'ple. station is greater than in Trebizond & the latter could be looked after from another station. In the next place I do not think that Trebizond would help Mrs. Chambers. As you know Mrs. Chambers is social & isolation is very trying on her. Trebizond is of lower altitude which might have a good effect, but we would be as much isolated as we are here, possibly more so. If our removal to Trebizond would be urged as relief for Mrs Chambers I would simply answer that in my opinion it would be no relief at all.

Though I have written you that I could

see no way out of the difficulty as far as the station is concerned but by our remaining for the present. I have no professional advice on Mrs. Chambers case & so I cannot urge it, but I must say that I cannot look forward with quiet mind to the Winter. Mrs. Chambers is not strong. We have been out tenting & I am sorry to say she has not obtained the recuperation from that which I hoped she would. This isolation is trying to her, more particularly in her present run down state. While we had hope of the Macallum's return we looked hopefully to the future.

I hope you will keep in mind that I would be glad to take advantage of the opening in W.Y.M. I hope you will do what you can to make the opening available. I am free to confess that it would be a trial to loose it. My position is just this; I want if possible to avoid any step that will sacrifice the work here. I want to avoid sacrificing my wife's health. If I must make the change I want to take advantage of the opening in W.Y.M.

We are still in great suspense & expectation. The Russian papers report much of the agitation in America.

Yours very truly W. N. Chambers

Erzroom, Aug. 28, 1895
Rec'd Sept. 12

Erzroom Sept 5. 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Barton,

Your favor of July 29th held an enclosure "dictated J. H. Worman" of the Outing Co. but bearing no signature. This last fact would be sufficient reason for giving it no notice, but as the writer most unjustly tries to cast blame on me I would ask your attention to the following.

Long before the Outing Co. woke up to the necessity of making search for Mr. Lenz I received a note from Mr. Langhans asking for information & assistance. My sympathy was aroused for the bereaved mother, & the course of Mr Langhans won my respect. I replied promising to do all I could. This was a very considerable time before any word was received from Mr. Worman. As Mr Sachtleben Mr. Worman's agent, arrived here about the same time as Mr. Worman's note asking for news & the case went to his hands I had nothing to communicate to Mr. Worman. However I could not take his request not to communicate with any one on the question as reason sufficient for not fulfilling my promise to Mrs Lenz more particularly as Mr Worman forbad his agent giving her any information & I received urgent request to forward information to the sorrowing mother. Mr. Worman seems to think that his request ought to be sufficient to prevent my fulfilling my promise to Mrs. Lenz. I must say that I regret entertaining his request for a moment, for in so doing I refrained from communicating to her all the information I had. Mr. Worman instead of acknowledging the favor done him, only tries unjustly to attach blame. It causes me a feeling of shame, although I am a British subject, when I think that this question involving the question of the coldblooded murder of an American citizen, should be in the humiliating state it is, & that it was left so long before any attempt was made to investigate it. The question & all information was passed over to Mr. Sachtleben on his arrival. He has done all that could be done in the matter - & has done very well, notwithstanding the fact that he has been left for a long time without a word of advice or instruction from Mr. Worman. Please communicate the above to Mr. Worman & let him know that I will communicate to whomever I please & what I please about the question.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Sept. 5, 1895.
Rec'd Sept. 26.

Erzroom Sept 6. 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton,

Last week brought the final returns on the following vote. "Voted:- That the Prud. Com. be requested to make a grant of 4 L.T. to defray, in part, the expense of Mr. Ellis's illness."

This vote received 9 votes in affir. and one in neg. As 11 would be necessary to give it the 5/6 vote it is 2 short of being carried. I presume Hpt. station has communicated the reasons for the vote.

I reported to you some time ago the vote in reference to Dr. Thom's vacation. It was carried.

I enclose a note concerning the note sent you by Dr. Worman of Oeking. I would be glad if you would either send on the note or give him the substance of it. I am very sorry to say that Dr. Worman's action has not by any means commendable.

Saturday morning:

Yours of Aug 14. came this morning. As to the 18 L. on Mrs. Richardson's trav. expense I would call to your mind the fact that an intersessional vote was circulated asking for the expense of Mr. R's removal to Erzingan. The vote was lost & it was suggested that any traveling expenses might properly go into trav. expense a/c. on his way to America. The question was left in this way. Mr. R. presented no bill of trav. expense to the station & so no action could be taken by the station. I will start an intersessional vote for the amt, to get the endorsement of the mission. You say "It is an expense that belongs to the station & not to the trav. expenses." It rather belongs to the mission. It was in reality contrary to the wishes of the station that Mr. R. was sent to Erzingan. The station opposed the plan 1. On the ground of reasons that attached to that particular question in a particular. The station deferred to the vote of the mission — or rather what was declared to be the mind of the mission. The sequel has vindicated the contention of the station. 2. The station objected also on the ground of expense. It was a needless expense. The mission became responsible for that outlay. The ~~State~~ vote went the rounds & a new one will start again. The station might under ordinary meet part of the expense from touring funds, but that fund has been more than expended a year ago.

Van & Harpoot seem to take the same view of the new scheme of apportionment that I did of which I wrote you.

I presume Dr Barnum & Mr Dewey will write you. As estimates have been made up in some cases at least on the new scheme. You people will have to make the decision. Remember our estimates are made up on the new plan.

Shakir Pasha is expected here in a day or two. His coming has a depressing effect on the people. They feel the danger of this delay giving the Sultan opportunity to work on the jealousies of Europe & also throw dust that some Europeans may become more lax on the question than they are now. The Erzingan-Kemakh affair was a serious affair. Apparently no lives were lost - but everything else of account was. As one person wrote the violation of a ten girl to death by a Turk that occurred a short time ago in that district was of no account whatever as compared to the the robbery of a Turkish officer. Yesterday morning a kidnapped girl (Armenian) escaped from a Turkish house in this city. She was only 13 years of age. She lived in Khanoos with her parents & one evening about sundown she was seized & carried off by soldiers. She remained in the hands of Turks about 20 days. She found opportunity to leave the house early yesterday morning while the Turks were drinking tea, & she found her way to an Arm. house. This kind of thing without the favourable issue of this is of continual occurrence.

As to Erzroom matters (Station) I, also, as I have already said, cannot see any way out of the difficulty but by my remaining for the present. After receiving the expression of Mr. Dewey's judgment on the question I wrote you. Now I receive word that some of the brethren have advised Miss Chambers to return to Erzroom. Some have advised her not to return. I trust she will act on your advice & not return. However the question is still open & it can't have but a restless effect. I can't write everything to the brethren of the mission, but I judged that I had written enough to make all hesitate to advise Miss C's. return. That some have done so, amongst them Mr. Andrus, unsettles me all the more. So while I am ready to hold on for the present, I am coming more & more to feel that my withdrawal will be the adviseable thing in the Spring. Whether the W.Y.M. call will be open to us then or not is not certain, but the duty of the hour is what has to be performed. We opened schools this week. The first weeks attendance has been small, but the outlook is fairly encouraging. I feel more & more the inadequacy of the superintendance I am able to give with all the other station work. It is a sore trial to see work suffering for want of better superintendance. Mrs Chambers is not in a position to do anything more than an occasional visit or so. Her hands are too full to allow her to do more & besides her strength will not endure more.

Yours very truly. W.N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Sept. 6, 1895.
Rec'd Sept. 26.

Erzroom. Sept. 19. 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton,

Your last told me of the appeal made on behalf of the suffering remnant of Sassoun. I presume you have heard much directly from Dr. Raynolds & Mr. Cole. I would only try to emphasise what they have undoubtedly said of the very great need. You know the conditions - the districts devastated with fire & sword. Houses in ruins & property either carried off or destroyed. 5,000 of the miserable remnant are collected amongst the ruins. These people are in need of shelter, clothing bedding & food. they ought in addition to have animals & implements & seed for sowing. Many of them are not strong enough to work because of wounds hunger & exposure. The Anglo-American commission of relief has undertaken to reestablish these people in their old homes & keep them alive till they can get on their feet again. A good deal of work has already been accomplished & the work is going on. But only between 2 & 3 thousand pounds have been received. Dr. Raynolds puts the lowest estimate at something over 10,000 £. for five months. Mr Vice-Consul Hampson estimates at least 15,000 £. This latter estimate would allow 3 £ apiece to 5,000 persons out of which shelter, clothing, bedding, animals implements & food are to be supplied. This would include the cost of transportation of all supplies - for the country was devastated. It also includes food for 5 months. It is plain that the estimate would allow a most miserable existence. However 15,000 £ is the very least that should be provided for these people. The missionaries on the ground are greatly hampered by the slowness at which the funds are coming in. They ought to be assured that they will be provided with funds that they may be able to make proper provision in the next six weeks or two months, the time open to them before the country is closed in by snow. Effort is being put forth in England to raise funds. It is hoped that American friends will respond liberally. It would be a terrible blow to the prestige of America & England if now this work would fail of completion & these poor people be scattered to the winds again. Their sufferings have been terrible, humanity demands that they be succored. To have the ~~[illegible]~~ missionaries withdrawn now would be awful. It must not be thought of.

The eyes of the Christians of the country are turned to America & England whence has come so much encouragement & sympathy in this time of terrible distress. Fail them not. Let them not be disappointed.

Shakir Pasha - the commissioner appointed by the Sultan, is here. He has tried to organize a reform commission & recruit Armenians into the Police force. He has completely failed. Seven leading Armenians one after the other refused to serve on the commission & none of the poorest men will serve on the Police. The As. have shown a marvelous unanimity in this. The Bishop has broken with the governor & has not been at the govt. house for over a month. The As. have taken a very bold stand & they seem desparately in earnest. The condition is apparently fast approaching the point of "no quarter". Both sides, the Turks & Armenians, have set their faces. Shakir Pasha is starting for Byazid on Saturday, ostensibly to examine into the condition of the country. He proposes to take Mr Sachtleben with him to investigate the Lenz question. I may go along.

The general condition of the country is steadily growing worse. The only relief is the better harvest, which is good this year, & the fact that the Koords seem to be heeding the carnage of blood they seem to hope to inaugurate a little later. Just at the present there are not so many Koordish depredations as usual. But increased official oppression more than balanced these favors.

Shakir Pasha has finally told Mr. Sachtleben that he has instructions to take him along to Alashgird. We hope to start early in the week - on Monday or Tuesday. On my return I will plan for a trip to Erzingan & Kemakh.

Please let us know at once of the prospect of assistance for this winter. Have you any new man in mind? Where is Mr. Larkin? Is he on his way to Mardin. This place needs a man who will be able to work up the schools - in fact to fill Mr Macallum's place.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Sept. 19. 1893.
Rec'd Oct. 14.

Erzroom. Oct 17. 1895.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston

My dear Dr. Smith

Your favor of Sept 13th was awaiting me on my return after a three weeks absence from home. I wrote Dr. Barton that I was about starting out with Mr. Sachtleben in search for traces of Mr. Lenz. We accompanied Shakir Pasha who had been sent to this part of the country to establish reform. He made it possible for us to gain considerable information, or at least to establish as fact much of the information already possessed & add somewhat to it. The main facts of the case are as already reported. There are a number of both Koords & Armenians under arrest. Three or four more Koords are wanted, but the principals are in hand. We believe the Armenians innocent. Circumstances however have thrown suspicion on some & they are under arrest. The Turks plan to throw the blame on the Armenians for a special purpose i.e. to discount them in the eyes of Europe & America. It is hoped that the U.S. Govt. will now come forward & do the proper thing in protecting the innocent & watching the case properly.

It was difficult for me to get away, but I felt I ought to do all I could to make this matter successful. During my absence Mrs Chambers found her hands full in having to look after all the work of the schools &c. besides getting money & goods sent on to Sassoon. In addition both children were taken with the measles & one of the most dangerously critical times of the year was passed. One day there was a very great danger of a rising of the Turks & the panic continued for about three days. I am glad to say that Mrs. Chambers stood it all well. The children are now nearly over their troubles. Kate's eyes are troubling her but they I think, are nearly well.

I found the country all the way to Byazid on the Persian boundary in a most grave state. The Hamedieh Koords are the rulers of the country & the lives of the Xns. were at their mercy. It is simply possible that many have been sacrificed since we passed. The Koords declare they will lay the country waste in blood before they submit to any favors granted to the Armenians. This is boasting. But a report of a massacre there at any moment would not surprise me at all.

Letters from Erzingan & Kemakh give information of a most serious condition there. Erzingan city is probably safe, but the out districts are in panics. I have a most pathetic letter from our pastor at Pakarich. The village of Lazgunes was attacked. 900 sheep & other animals were driven off, two men murdered & six women brutally used & robbed of their clothing. Several houses in Romer were pillaged. Upper Pakarich was attacked, the flocks driven off & two Armenians taken captive & held for 150 £ ransom. The Pastor says we are within the breadth of a hair of the grave by fire & sword. Two hundred armed Koords are laying waste the Armenian villages. They are the men of Khan Oglu of the Dersim.

Since the Trebizond affair Baiboort city have suffered, also a Xn village near the city. this last with its inhabitants is said to have been destroyed. also a village in Espir named Chipote has suffered terribly.

The Moslem population of this city has armed itself & is most insolent, & most offensive in its threats of violence. However we now have little fear of an outbreak in this city. The Armenians are conducting themselves well indeed under the circumstances. The more violent of them seemed to satisfy themselves with the death of two informers. The authorities are taking precaution to preserve order. The out districts are in a more defenceless condition & no one is safe. Very many people do not leave their houses.

While at Byazid Mr. Sachtleben & I improved the time we were waiting for Shakir Pacha to climb Ararat. We were three days at it. The two nights we spent on the mountain the temp. was down to 4° below zero centigrade. We almost reached the top, but were driven back by a violent snowstorm. The temp. there fell to more than 10° below zero. There was little snow on the sides of the mt. that day, but the next day the sides were almost covered. We went up a ridge of great boulders from the east. This was free of snow to within a short distance of the top. In many places we had to clamber up almost perpendicular piles of boulders. The season was too late & the weather was unfavourable. Two weeks earlier the ascent would have been a comparatively easy & pleasant one. The third day we were hard at work climbing up & return for 10 or 11 hours. We were almost 24 hours hungry. When we reached the town in the evening we were almost exhausted. But it was worth the labor & we only regret that we did not reach the top. It was a sight to be remembered.

With kindest regards
Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Oct. 17. 1895.
Rec'd Nov. 11.

Erzroom. Oct 26. 1895.

Rev. Judson Smith
Boston.

Dear Dr Smith,

I only take time for a note to let you know of our state. To use a native expression "up to the present writing we are alive & well". The city has been kept quiet by the numerous patrols which are on duty night & day. To day there are disturbing rumors going about. The Ts. are greatly exasperated & feel very angry at the thought of any concession to the Armenians. The post coming to day gives greater detail of the acceptance of the scheme of reform & there is much talk of a rising of the Turks. The As. on the other hand are doing their best to keep quiet, but they fear that the execution of reform has become next to impossible. In Baibourt district 18 out of 30 villages have been plundered. The loss of life does not appear to be very great, but robbery, plunder, violence outrage as might be expected. The people are panic stricken & in fleeing are running into greater danger. Erzingan has had its affair. About 60 said to be killed. Eight out of the Protestant community.

Shakir ~~Pasha~~ Pasha & the new Vali Raouf Pasha are doing what they can to keep quiet in the Province.

We have fallen on stirring times. One can't safely predict what the next hour may bring forth. However this city seems safe & the danger has been warded off the district so far we trust that all will go well.

Kate is still poorly from the effects of the measles. Otherwise we are usually well

Yours truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Oct. 22, 1895.
Rec'd Nov. 18,

Erzroom Oct 30. Wednesday. 1895

Dear Mr. Dwight,

At last we have had or are having our turn. Thank God, we are all safe so far. It is 10 o'cl. P.M. & everything seems quiet except the crowd of about 200 people who took refuge in our house. I do not think much killing was done, but a very great deal of plunder was carried off. We can find out more tomorrow if the city is quiet. The thing has been threatening for several weeks, but we judged that with the presence of Shakir Pasha & the new Vali Raouf Pasha this city might escape, but it didn't. Just before noon I went over to the telegraph office to send a message of inquiry to Bitlis. I had telegraphed on Sunday evening to inquire but had received no answer. So I went over myself and paid three price for the telegram so as to insure an answer. I returned through the market & rumor was rife & many of the stores were half shut. I reached a point in the market about 1/4 of a mile from our house when I suddenly hear yelling & shots behind me & the shutting of shops began in good earnest & people began to run in all directions. I followed the example & ran home as fast as I could. The firing was quite hot & others who watched my flight declare that a number of Turks followed me & fired at me as much as 10 or a dozen times. When I reached the girls' school door I met a patrol and as I passed the head of it the officer gave the order to fire. That stopped the pursuit i.e. my pursuers. One of the men

of the patrol fired his revolver very disagreeably near in
my direction. However I reached home safely. Then th
refugees began to flock in mostly women & children, indeed
some had already come in. We made ready for defence
but it soon appeared that the soldiers had cut off the rabble fro
this street & no mob passed our street & only a few men
came to the door of the boys school & began to try to open th
door. Three well directed shots from our balcony sent the
off. It soon became apparent that the soldiers ha
reserved the right of plunder. The men (soldiers) who were at the
head of our street, apparently to guard it, broke open three
or four houses within stones throw of us & carried off
every thing found in them. Besides this we saw loads &
loads of plunder carried off by soldiers. There was a larg
number of women engaged in the same work. One poo
Armenian took refuge in our house with an ugly bull
wound in his forhead. Another one escaped with a sligh
dagger wound in the back. The affair began shortly af
noon & continued till very near sun down about 6 hou
About dusk a couple of refugees came under guard fro
the Govt. Konak. They report that 400 or 500 took refuge ther
The Vali & the dragomans of the consulates came to them &
talked encouragingly to them. The Vali said "If you pl
remain here tonight & I will feed you, or if you prefer I
will give you escort to your homes." Many of them pre
ferred the latter. Their names & the names of the escort
were taken down & they were sent home. These men
saw a number of corpses in the streets & very many
plund[illegible] shops.

This poor crowd is lying & sitting in almost every room in the house. No rest or sleep for them. The husbands & brothers & sons of most of them were in the market & they have no idea whether they escaped or not. Of course their dread is that they did not.

Nellie & the children have stood the ordeal so far splendidly.

Thursday Morning.

The night passed quietly - occasional firing in other parts of the city kept us on the qui vive. However no mob ventured down our street. This morning we got into communication at once with the consul & finally got a guard of six soldiers. He had dispatched a guard to us the evening before & it failed to come to us. The morning revealed a dreadful state of things. The missing began to come in. The stories of hair breadth escapes & thrilling experiences & horrible murders were sickening in the extreme. Manoog Aspa & two sons & two other men blockaded the door of the shop, entered the cellar & dug with their hands through two walls & got the favor of a Turk. They lay for 18 hours squeezed into a small damp place. They escaped with their lives, but the shop was plundered of 1200£ worth of goods. Two others after several narrow escapes hid in some yonjah (hay) & witnessed the killing of 11 persons & then got off. One man was called to the door by an officer who professed to be friendly & was cut down in cold blood. Others were cruelly put to death. The death roll must be away up toward 300 if not more. Between 50 & 60 wounded are in the hospital. 204 bodies were gathered in the Arm. cemetery today some of them most horribly mutilated. There must be many wounded in the different houses:. The plundering of shops

& houses was wholesale. The day passed quickly for the most p
Mr. Cumberbatch came up with reassuring news since ind
some of the people return to their houses. Later in day I went to c
on the consul & returned through Demeer Ayak street. It ma
one's heart bleed to see the state of thing. Rubbish scattered about t
street. The doors broken ~~down~~ open, some torn from their hinges, so
smashed through at the lock, some split through the center & th
houses cleaned out from ceiling to cellar. All sorts of rumors a
about of another bloody attack being determined on & so the poo
terror stricken people begin to ~~close~~ come in again. Many who went da
the day because of our assurances did not return, but ma
new ones came in. We had about as many as the night befor
the. Five families of our people have nothing left. Three or fou
are wounded. One man is missing, & one family has not been
heard from.

Friday. Night passed quietly. I went to see the consul & Bishop Lady i
the morning. The people are in an awful state of dread. I did
what I could to encourage them. Report that the church & Sanas
ian school were to be searched & so more panic all over the cit
The examination was a quiet easy affair. Arrangements are
being made for the transfer of the wounded to the Frere's school
& to the Gregorian school. The collection of the dead goes on.
316 collected in the graveyard. The greater part of the dead
has been carried off.

In company with Mr. Cumberbatch, Mr Monaco, Tawfik Be
the Aide-de-camp of Shakir Pasha & ~~Mr~~. Dingross I went throug
some of the pillaged quarters. The pillaged houses are to be coun
by the hundreds. No house which was attacked was left till it was emptied
entirely of [illegible] movable thing.

One heart rending scene was the following: The battered door was pushed aside which admitted us to a long passage way. the door At the end of the passage way was in splinters & admitted us into the Lower room or kitchen of the house. Here a most horrible sight confronted us. In the middle of this small room lying side by side on a mat were the bodies of two young women almost naked & a light covering thrown over the heads. At the other side of the room a grief stricken women was trying to make bread from a little flour that had been left. She had to borrow utensils to do it. She left her work & came forward & answered ~~at~~ the first question by removing the covering from the bodies This revealed a most gastly sight. The bodies were those of young women developing into motherhood. The head & face of one was covered with blood & she was also badly wounded in the hand. The other had a bullet wound through the abdomen from the right side

A companion of these two had been carried off & was lying dead ~~a corpse in~~ in another house. Their lives were sacrificed in defence of their honor & the holy state in which they found themselves. We passed through the ruins of some other rooms. The b[illegible] & other furniture were in splinters, the windows were smashed, the walls were ploughed with bullets & there was not to be seen a bit of the household goods. The floor was covered with big patches of blood &c. The once comfortable house turned into the saddest desolation. Robbery, dishonor, death—fearful desolation.

In ~~the~~ another house we saw two dead bodies an aged father & middle-aged son lying in pools of blood & the house a wreck & the people wailing & hungry.

The scene in the Cemetery is awful. about 350 bodies of whom 5 were the bodies of women are lying. They are simply wrecks of human bodies. Awful cruelties was practiced

~~many were~~ the majority have bullet wounds. They most
all have bayonet & sword & dagger wounds. Some badly m
tilated. Two or three skinned. Some burned with kerosen
A great many women are missing. Very many dead ha
been disposed of by the Turks themselves. It is impossible to get
at any definite numbers but it must be very close to th
four figures if it is not above. The poor people are terro
stricken & the least report causes them to tremble. There a
hundreds who have nothing to eat & no means of getting
thing. The Govt. began to send bread to them yesterday
Saturday. The wounded are being collected. Some are in
Catholic school house, & some in the Gregorian Armenian
School house. I offered our building for use & it is in read
if needed. The deadly work was so deadly that the killed
far exceed the wounded. The villages of the plain have su
fered awfully. No definite news, only the news that colu
of smoke rose.

As far as can be judged now the Armenians gave no re
for the massacre at the time it began. It evidently was
prearranged affair. It began all over the city at the sam
moment. The bugle was sounded & the soldiers began
They first said "no harm to women & children". But they so
passed those bounds. A soldier who was guard at our do
says that the order was given by the Pash.

Word from Erzingan is that that city has suffered
as this. The villages of Zeyan. Persians in today say th
Passin plain has been destroyed. It is post time & I must
close. Please report us as well or at least alive.

Yours W. N. Chambers.

Rec'd Nov 25

Erzroom. Nov. 5. 95.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton

You will have heard of the massacre that took place here last Wednesday Oct 30th. I wrote Mr. Dwight at Constantinople & asked him to write you. I had not time to write more than one note for that post. Thank God we are up to the present time alive & I anticipate no immediate danger at least. The city is now quiet & the govt. is trying to reassure the people. But it did that prior to the massacre & the people are in a state of nervous panic. The strain to which we have been subjected has been most wearying & the future is all uncertain. During the day of the massacre we had between 300 & 400 refugees in our house, one of whom had an ugly Martini bullet wound in his forehead which had splintered his skull. After 24 hours most of these people went to their homes. But many of them remained so that during the week we have had constantly in the house between 75 & 100 people & some times as many as 400 when anything took place to scare them. Mrs. Chambers bore up well & did all she could for the comfort of the people in the house. But since the tension of the time of the massacre passed she feels herself very limp & wretched. We were able to keep the children quiet though Kate has suffered much more than Talcott, being much more nervous. To day most of the remaining people left & there are only about 25 remaining. If confidence is better established in the course of a few days these may get away also. The doors of the houses were broken in & the houses plundered of everything & many of the poor people have not even money enough to get the doors repaired & they are afraid to sleep behind broken doors. An account is being taken of the number of houses & shops plundered. So far it is said that about 700 houses & about 1500 shops were plundered of all that was in them. The number of killed can never be known for there were many strangers in the city, but it must be very near 1000 if it has not passed it. The number of wounded now being tended in the hospitals is over a hundred, & many still remain in hiding. The very large proportion of killed demonstrates the fact that the attack was with intent to kill, which is confirmed by the awful nature of the wounds.

The present condition of the people is about as bad as that of the Sassoon people after the massacre. There no houses remained, but the people could go to districts where they could be housed & scantily fed. Here no district has escaped & the stories from villages of the outlying district are heartrending. The attack seems to have been almost universal & very bloody. Not only was the plundering almost all comprehensive, but the wanton destruction of property that could not be removed was very marked. Boxes & other furniture were split to pieces. Provisions that could not be carried away were destroyed. Pickles & preserves were emptied into the flour boxes. Potatoes & beets & flour & other provisions were piled in the middle of the floor & tramped into a pulp. In this city alone I judge there are between two & three thousand people who are almost if not quite destitute of fuel, bedding & food, & the majority have only the clothes they have on their backs at the present moment. The remnants of the village are even worse off. 15,000 £ were to have been expended in Sassoon this winter. The Sassoon affair is forgotten in this thousand fold more dire calamity that has befallen the country. The wave started at Constantinople & has so far swept through Trebizond Baibourt, Erzingan, Erzroom, Bitlis, Harpoot & most of the intervening districts. Of the districts - aside from the cities - that have suffered are, beginning at the west, ~~the~~ Kemakh, Erzingan, Terjan, Baibourt, Kooroo Chai, Erzroom plain, Keghi, Passen, Khanoos, Alashgird & Byazid. That is to say the entire Erzroom province has been ~~swept~~ deluged in Christian blood & the bulk of Christian property plundered or destroyed;

I am in very great anxiety about our pastors & other helpers & their families in these outlying districts. I have little or no hope that they escaped. However the community here escaped marvously. No Protestant lost his life here, though the hair breadth escapes were miraculous. Seven Protestant houses were plundered & seven shops.

7 The Govt. is making a show of distributing the plunder, collected from the barracks, to the rightful owners though this attempt is rather farcial, ~~A~~ a few will get somethings back, & a good many will get nothing. The Govt. is giving out bread to many of the destitute. How long this will continue is not known. On Sunday afternoon about 4 O'cl. there was a scare & the firing became general all over the city. The people became terrified & rushed for places of safety. Ten or fifteen were killed. However the Govt. took prompt measures to suppress the firing & it continued only about an hour. It started from the quarrel of two soldiers over loot in which one shot the other.

The consuls have done all they possibly can for the safety of the city. Mr. Cumberbatch - the English consul - has done everything for our safety & that of the mission property.

I have been most anxious about the Bitlis friends since we heard of the massacre there on Friday Oct 25th. I telegraphed immediately for news, but got no reply. Then on Wednesday, the day of ~~our~~ the Erzroom massacre I telegraphed again & have received no reply. I however received letters on Sunday written by Mr. Knapp on Oct. 30th in which he says: ~~they were~~ "We are under siege & in much danger. Do your best to secure effective protection for us. We are all together in this house". On the first news of the massacre I asked the Consul to make enquiries of the Vali here & also telegraph the Embassy & ask them to inform the U.S. Legation. This he did. Besides the Vice-Consul at Moosh heard of the affair about the same time as we did & undoubtedly telegraphed to C'ple. The Consul here has suggested that the various governors be made personally responsible for the safety of the foreigners both consuls & missionaries. I do hope that every means will be taken by Mr. Terrel to secure the safety of the friends there & I most heartily wish the ladies & children at least were out of Bitlis.

I also received a telegram from Dr. Barnum on Thursday the 31st Oct. indicating that conditions there were very serious. This I reported to Mr. Cumberbatch & he immediately telegraphed the Embassy. Then on Sunday Nov 3rd I received another telegram from which we inferred that the Koords were on the war path & the city & district were being devastated. We hope that this news at C'ple. will lead Mr. Terrel to demand the safety of the Harpoot friends. This is all very terrible & what the outcome will be is impossible to say. This much is certain that only foreign occupation will establish a beneficial change. The reform scheme was born dead & there is no hope from that quarter. If Europe delays longer the suffering this winter will be most harrowing.

As I have not given you a direct account of Wednesdays work I may as well do it here. A little before noon I had gone to the telegraph office to send a telegram to Bitlis to ask about their safety. As I gave the telegram I looked at my watch & it was five minutes past twelve. I came down through the market on my way home. I found some shops half shut & others shutting their shops. Men were standing at the doors of the shops in expectation of something & yet in great uncertainty. I passed on till I reached a point about a quarter of a mile from home when I suddenly heard firing behind me in the market I had just passed through & people began to run. I immediately ran home ordering the boys into the school & to close the door of the school on my way. There was no chance of removing them to our house for the firing was hot just behind me. In fact I was afterwards told by some who saw my flight that I was pursued by Turks who fired directly at me a number of times. They were stopped by a squad of soldiers - a patrol - passing down the street up which I was running. I reached home safely & the refugees began to crowd in. As the attack did not come on up our street we were able to get the ~~girls~~ teachers & pupils from the girls' school up to our house. By this time 300 refugees were in our house & none others could reach us because of the firing. A company of 10 or 12 Turks came to the door of the Boys' School & began operations on it. Three well directed bullets from our balcony drove them off & we were not molested any further except that a bullet was fired through one of our windows. Firing was continuous all around us. We could see th in the distance soldiers carrying off plunder from various directions. We watched from our windows the plundering of a couple of houses at the head of our street. At about 4.30. P.M. there was a lull & the soldiers seemed to be drawing off. A few more refugees came in & reported blood curdling things.

I sent a note by a Koord who was said to be friendly to the Consul. It never was delivered. About dusk a cavass of the consulate came in search of a friend. I sent a verbal message through him to the consul which was not delivered. However next morning I got into communication with the consul & secured a guard for all our buildings & they have been continued ever since. The consul had demanded a guard for us during the time of the massacre & he saw it start for us, but it never arrived.

Next day (Thursday) the authorities declared the city safe. The collection of dead & wounded began & the rescue of those in hiding. The distress was awful & the scenes most harrowing. On Friday I walked with the consul through some of the plundered quarters. The scene was most desolate. Doors were broken down, some had been patched up. Rubbish was scattered round the streets. The people were standing round the doors of their empty house - some were wailing over their dead wounded & missing. Things continued this way till Sunday evening. The people had begun to get back a little confidence, but suddenly about 3.30 firing began again & the people went into a greater panic than ever. That destroyed the growing confidence & since then they have been in a state fear that the slightest thing turns into a tremble. It is all sad beyond expression. In my walk round that day ~~[illegible] are now in the hospitals~~ I went into one house where two women were lying dead; in another two men lying in pools of blood, in another a young boy lying dead. Sights never to be forgotten.

The Turks declare that the Armenians made an attack on the Govt. house & so the affair began. This declaration is absolutely without foundation. There was no attack even contemplated by Armenians. There is good ground for thinking that the first man shot was an aged priest who was at the Govt-house to present a complaint to the Governor. He had been robbed in his own house in the village of Livnig & only got off with his life by giving a note for 100£ for five days. He was an inoffensive old man & would be the last man in the world to do such a thing as offer to attack. The As. had shown an very great amount of patience. I am perfectly sure they had no no thought of attack, much less any preparation for it. The attack was made by Moslems after leaving the mosques after the noon hour of prayer, & it was simultaneous all over the city. The A's. were in their places of business the most of which were simply death traps in case of any such attack. For instance the Silversmith's row was cut off at either end & not a man escaped & the shops were not only plundered but wrecked. In fact the more violent Armenians i.e. the Hunchagists had determined to keep perfectly quiet till the Scheme of Reform was well tried.

the soldiers declare that they had been instructed before hand. The hour of attack had been set a number of times. I think I wrote you of a little incident. I was returning from a call on the new Vali & Shakir Pasha. Coming down through the market I met a couple of drunken fellows. The one was trying to get the other along. The one that was being forced along resisted & called out "We are to attack at eleven o'clock" i.e. an hour before sundown. The Turks were expecting it for a long time & evidently the orders were given from Constantinople. The massacre was almost entirely in the hands of the military. It began with the bugle call to fire, & it ceased with the bugle call in the evening.

Now those who are forced to give up plunder are bitterly complaining that they were told to plunder & now are forced to give up what they got besides having ruined their Armenian neighbors & friends.

The scheme of Reform has no become an impossibility. The only hope of this land is foreign occupation. This part of the country will undoubtedly fall to Russia. We hope the time is not far distant when we will see order restored on a permanent basis.

Appeal for relief funds. We have no idea how many people in the districts are left destitute. Rest assured that they will be counted by thousands. Very many breadwinners have been killed. The bread provided for the coming winter has been plundered. All opportunity for winning bread is cut off. The remnant of the people are so left in utter destitution without any opportunity of obtaining their bread. They can't get out of the country, because the Govt. will not let them. Even with Govt. permits very many have no means of transport & the season is late & many would die of exposure. The fact these unfortunate people are in as wretched & pitiable position as is possible for people to be in. They have waited on the western nations. As the West was not able to better their condition politically now is the time to discharge a most humane duty & contribute of their substance for the preservation of the lives that remain. Two cents a day will give a man about 1½ lb. of bread. In God's name do all you can to raise money for this purpose. I have in hand about 16£. = $70.60 but this is nothing. In all probability Sassoon work will have to be closed up as the Govt. will now do everything to stop it & with the wave of massacre sweeping over the country it will be impossible to do anything. England can only continue by sending an armed force into the country. When will a time of peace & prosperity come for this land?

~~they~~ There is another question I may as well mention here. You know I have written of Mrs. Chambers' health. I was glad to see that with rest & comparative freedom from anxiety &c. she was improving & we had looked forward to passing the winter in comparative comfort. However this last week has been a most trying one to Mrs. Chambers. She is just nervous enough not to be able to see suffering & avoid suffering almost as much as the sufferer more especially when she can do so little to relieve the distress. I therefore greatly fear the evil consequences, to her both nervously & physically, of the conditions holding here for the winter. I seriously entertain the thought of sending her & the children on to Constantinople if opportunity offers in case it should seem necessary. This is not leaving duty. It is simply choosing the least of two evils. Besides I think that under present circumstances I could do much better work in relieving distress if I knew my family was in a safe & comfortable retreat. If opportunity offers I would like to visit the out district which I would hesitate to do leaving Mrs. Chambers alone in this city.

Saturday 9th. The city is quiet up to the present & there is good hope of continuance. Only for the love of God do all you can to get relief for these wretched people.

Yours
W. N. Chambe

Erzroom, Nov. 5, 1895.
Rec'd Nov. 30.

Erzroom Nov 15. 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr Barton.

I wrote you a long letter last week giving you information of affairs about us. I fear very much it may not reach you. I have not time to repeat. At the present time we are safe & well. The strain is wearing away & the country I think will become quiet if some unexpected upheaval does not follow all this. This is not likely this winter. Here very few Armenians have opened their shops. In fact, they have have nothing in the shops even if they opened as all (with a few exceptions) have been plundered. I called on the Vali the other day. He expressed the deepest regret for all that had taken place, saying that not 2 out of a hundred ~~men~~ of the sufferers were blameworthy. He is doing all he can for peace. He was quite cordial & asked me to do what I could to influence the people to open the shops. The people are still in very great doubt & discouragement & know not what to do. It is all very awful. There are thousands of people throughout the Province in destitution.

I fear very much that some of our outstations have been laid in ruins.

Last word from Bitlis was that the friends there were safe, but felt themselves in a most critical condition – a state of siege. The attention of the authorities was called to it. I think they are safe, but I wish the families were safe out of it.

An attempt was made at Moosh yesterday but was prevented by the energy of the Mutasserif. Only about a dozen killed.

No word of anything having happened at Van up to date. It may escape. The surrounding villages are in a bad way.

I think the storm is pretty well over. If war is not declared, no more massacres are likely to occur soon.

Yours very truly,

W. N. Chambers.

Erzroum, Nov. 15, 1895

Rec'd Dec. 7

Erzroom Nov. 22. 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr Barton,

I had time only for a short note last week. We are all well up to the present & the city is quiet. The people are in great dread & uncertainty. The schools are all closed still. We propose to open ours on Monday, but I fear we will have few scholars, as the people are afraid to send their children out on the streets far from home. The chapel has not been opened since the ~~riot~~ massacre because of the fear of the people. Each Sunday there has been service in our house. The anxiety and uncertainty & dread wears away very slowly. Only a few of the shops that escaped plundering are opened an hour or two each day. Many people scarcely leave their houses. Many Turks express great regret at the awful disaster, some prophesy its repetition. The Turks have dismissed their Armenian employees. There are very few Xns who have been able to recover 1/5 of loss in household goods, & now the farce of distributing the goods plundered from the shops is being undertaken. There is no work, no business, no money, no hope, no heart. As time passes the awful pall of the massacre hangs heavy over the city. The whole situation is most distressing. The govt. is gradually decreasing its daily dole of bread & will soon stop giving it altogether. What will these 5000 people do then? But it is not only the city. I have more definite information from some of the out districts. Khanoos has 24 villages inhabited by Armenians. Of these ten - Bournaz, Yeni Keuy Yeghertloo, Kara Budagha, Kozloo, Kara Kupru, Marof Shabadin, Kakikh, Halal Tchaouch - were plundered of all possessions, the inhabitants scattered, about 100 persons killed & a great deal of immoveable property wantonly destroyed & many of the houses wrecked & timbers carried away. Five villages - Chevermeh, Heramik, Duman, Elpis, & Aros - were partially plundered, herds & flocks driven off & some of the inhabitants scattered. Six villages Gevendoog, Kara Tchoban, Kerimkaia, Sarvoli Khanoos Kalleh, & Sailoo were protected from plunder. The first four villages paid a present of over 200 £ to a notorious brigand named Tajdeen Bey & he promised to defend them. He was decorated by the Sultan for his faithfulness. I have not definite news of the other three Gopal, Yahyah, & Aghaja Meleuk. This shows that at least half of the Christian population of the district is homeless, naked & hungry & without ~~resources~~. The loss of life was small. The district was visited by Shakir Pasha & apparently the Koords were quieted. Passen plain - east of us - is evidently as badly off as Khanoos. But farther east in the Alashgird & Byazid district the looting was not quite so extensive.

Going to almost the extreme west of the province we get a glimpse of the state there through the following - the translation of a letter received from the Protestant pastor of Packarich. I received it by last post.

"Dear Mr Chambers, Nov. 9. 95.

Our present wretched state came upon us on Oct 26th. We are in very great doubt, fear & trembling that greater misery come upon us which will be unendurable. What can we do? With whom can we take refuge? Our poor children are shivering in the cold and hungry. Some are sick. Terror on one side & the cold the other. Would we had some clothing & bedding! Alas alas, I wrote you asking that you would take me away from here. I told you our condition & prospects were very very bad; I wrote you when I was sick. You thought it little. Now how can I make you understand. If you do not have pity & help us I fear you will find us at rest in the grave, where some are already resting, & others will today or tomorrow.

You must know that even my pen was carried off, & what they could not carry off they wantonly destroyed.

If you do not hasten we will be hopeless & without resource. You write; "Have patience a while longer". Alas, alas, would that you could see our miserable condition.

The local Kaimakam came & remained a few days. He greatly pitied our condition & gave promise that the things carried off would be returned. We weep & wail. May the Lord have mercy. T. H. H."

The Dersim Koords overran Kemakh where this village. They left in their trail sorrow, & misery & ruin. I judge from the above that they plundered this village of Packarich killing some of the people and wounding. I know they had done the same to other villages.

By the same post I received a short letter from Erzingan from our preacher there. He writes: "We have forgotten everything else. We think only of death and prepare for it. The Lord have mercy on you & us. Up to the present moment we are alive. I cannot say today, for we know not that we may be alive by evening. You would judge we saw death with the naked eye. The agony is unendurable, & still continues."

I have already reported to you the massacre in Erzingan & the plundering of the market. From another source I heard that on the day (Oct 28th) that the above was written the Koords from outside — presumably the Dersim

Koords - made an attempt to sack the city. They killed a few people but were driven off by the military.

The terror is more painful in a second attack than in the first.

The wail of hunger & destitution is about as heart-rending as the wail of terror that is sweeping over the land. As the days pass by the horror of the past three weeks increases as the awfulness of these terrible events stand out in their solemn sad reality. We try to get away from the thought, but day by day it becomes more real. It faces you at every turn. The specter of those awful days will not down. We thought we had hard times to endure before this!

Now comes the question of relief. Oh, will the benevolent world allow these wretched people to die for want of food?

Another question almost crushes my heart. The salary of the pastor at Packarich whose letter I quote above was paid in part (more than half) by the people. He is sitting naked in an empty house in the cold. Apparently his people are in the same condition. Not only is he robbed of all he had, but his income is cut off by more than half so that he cannot get bread for his children. He has done good service for over 20 years. What word of cheer & encouragement can I send him? The Board will not help him. The people are as destitute as he himself. The only thing I can say to him is that the American churches cannot help you. The Board still has a debt of $115,000 with a decreasing revenue this Cente or wont help you. Your people are robbed of everything & are in need of bread. So the only thing for you to do is to beg your bread from door to door in the Turkish village. This thought & the expression is shocking. How much more shocking it is to have our actions express it. What am I to say to this faithful worker in the time of his dire distress? What am I to say to others like him? In America such a case of distress would soon be relieved for when people see & realize they help the distressed. But here I am knowing that the Board can't help him any more in his salary. And as he says "What can I do? To whom can I appeal?" Would that these things could be realized by the churches! It is true that the Lord reigns. Yet he has permitted this terrible terrible thing. Still he has promised that all things work together for good. May God grant unto us to realize the truth of those words. How good will come out of this God alone knows, it is enough for us that He says it will.

I had no word from Bitlis this week, but judge the friends there are still safe. Van I think has had no massacre yet & now probably will not have. It was permitted at Moush.

You will hear of the great display the Turk is making in the restoration of the plunder. Let no body be deceived by this. It is a farce. Many people who lost their all get nothing back. Many get two or three articles. I have heard of none who secured one tenth of their loss. The Turk does this much so as to be able to say we did so much, & that much is reached by tremendous exaggeration. He will say ½ or possibly 70 or 80 percent has been restored. Just as he says the Armenians attacked the Government house. which was a bare falsehood.

We are keeping pretty well, but the strain is awful. However we are comfortable as compared with the Bitlis people. They must be all exhausted. I trust that everything will be done in the proper circles to make sure their safety.

There are two Armeno-Americans here from Boston. One is Aroot Simonian. He got his passport in Boston in last Dec. Its number is . Mr Terrel apparently takes no notice of it. The other is Sarkis Serabian. His passport was reported by the English consul here to the the Minister in Cple. No notice has been taken of him. He is in prison in Khanoos. You might ask about these men. Let them be called to Cple. for trial.

Yours respectfully

W. N. Chambers. (over)

Later. A telegram just in from Moosh from Mr. Cole asking for money. We are almost without money here & I can't send it. This telegram would indicate that Mr Cole is still in Moosh & I would judge that Dr. Reynolds has been too ill to be removed & both have remained in Moosh.

W.N.C.

Erzroom, Nov. 22, 1895.
Rec'd Dec. 23,

Rev. W. N. Chambers 184

Nov 3. 95 Erzroom

Rec'd Nov. 25. 1895.

Dear Mr. Dwight,

~~These~~ I send you the enclosed will you please let my brothers know of our safety. If Mr. Scudamore is there please let him read this & make use of it, only to so use it that it will not reveal the source. I have not time to write to Boston. Please send on to Boston & appeal for assistance for the people that are sitting naked & hungry in this whole province & have no refuge as the Sassoon remnant had among a people that had not gone through a massacre. I doubt if any district has escaped.

W. N. C.

I have no news from Bitlis or

I fear the very worst for not only for the city — but for the missionaries.

Reynolds & Heale — are in a bad position I have no doubt.

I could write more but have not time. We have forgotten reform for there remains nothing to reform.

The last report is that 521 were buried today in the Arm. Cemetery.

W N Chambers

Erzroom. Nov. 27. 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr. Barton,

I wrote you at some length last week giving the situation up to date. At that time the situation was bad enough, but growing more hopeful. On the Sunday - the day after I wrote you - our chapel bell was rung for the first time since the great massacre, & we held service. I announced the opening of the schools again & the bell was rung on Monday morning. This gave added assurance to a great many. The assurance had been steadily growing & the Armenians were out in numbers. Some had opened their shops, others were seeking their plundered goods, & others were looking for work. Suddenly the city became in an uproar. The panic was most painful. One poor woman who had suffered much, & was out seeking lost property, became so terror stricken that she dropped dead in the street. In a few minutes our house filled with a terror stricken crowd. It was most painful to see the agony of terror of the women. Faces were blanched, limbs were trembling & their strength was all gone. However we were mercifully spared.

seeing killing. This time the affair was arranged by the Turkish populace. It had been rumored for several days that Monday would be an ill starred day, but we thought it only a rumor. But it was a settled plan & would have been most furious & bloody had not the Govt. been active in quelling it. It lasted about an hour & about 10 or 12 persons were killed & 15 or 20 wounded. The soldiers took part only in out of the way places & on the sly. The bashi-bazooks however were violent & the same vindictive cruelty was apparent as on the previous occasions. This time the wounds were mostly sword & dagger wounds & they were horrible stabs & slashes.

The result of this Monday affair is that the people now remain in their houses. They dare not venture out & it will take a much longer time to reassure them. As regards the terror it caused it was worse than the great massacre. It also gives the feeling of insecurity that the same thing may happen again at any moment & no one cares to run the risk of being caught in another death traps. The Turks are as afraid of being found in a Christian quarter as the Christians are of being caught in a Turkish quarter. The animosity is most bitter.

I have a list of 24 villages plundered on this plain of Erzroom. Ten were plundered in Passen, fifteen in Khanoos, & five in Alashgird. That makes 54 villages that we know have been plundered in the districts East of this city. In the district west from here the destruction is much greater, but we have not definite information.

Possibly this is not enough to convince Europe that the integrity of the Ottoman empire will be soon passed the possibility of being secured by them.

Mr. Cumberbatch requested Shakir Pasha to secure information from Harpoot about the missionaries there as we were all so anxious about them. The reply came to the following effect" that two companies of soldiers were in the Town for its protection when the Koords made the assault. The Koords effected an entrance in the rear of the guard into the quarter inhabited by the foreigners (Americans) Mr. Gates house was fired. The soldiers were soon on the spot & worked admirably" to put out the fire & disperse the mob. But there being no water in the city the fire spread & some of the buildings were destroyed. No damage of account was done to any other quarter of the city. In all the damage done amounted to about 4000 £. No lives were mentioned as lost. This is the report, or I should say the reply from Harpoot. Reading between the lines I would say that the affair was most serious for the town, & that the missionaries escaped only with their lives. The after effects may have prostrated at least some of the more delicate.

I have no word direct from Bitlis for two weeks. I hear through the consul that the friends there propose to remove to Van. I wish that some of them had come here. However it is a relief to have them out of Bitlis.

Our regular work of course is all at a stand still. There is no way of sending salaries to one of the outstations, in fact communication of any kind is very uncertain. Our schools here opened last Monday are closed again & I have no idea when we can open again. I dare not take the risk of urging the people to send their children through the streets. So far I know of only three of our people who have lost their lives in this station, but many are reduced to great distress. It is to be hoped that before this reaches you the dreadful situation will have been relieved. We are well. Yours. W. N. Chambers.

P.S. Saturday Nov. 30. This morning there was a little scare. A half dozen women came in in a terror stricken state. They said Turks in their street said; "we did not get the chance last night, it remains to this morning" Nothing so far has occurred, but the remark is rather terrifying.

The number of houses plundered in Pasen is 780, accounting 7 persons to a house this gives over 5000 destitute persons in that district.

The govt. has formed a commission for relief work. But the Turks have no money. This will give occasion only for more trouble. Do not be deceived by it. The Turks cannot & will not do anything of a[illegible].

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Rec'
Ans'

Rev. R. M. Chambers.

Erzroom, Nov. 27, 1895.

Rec'd Dec. 27.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 1-17-96
Ans'd

Erzroom, Dec. 21. 1895.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr Barton,

I have been so rushed that I have not had opportunity of writing for two weeks. You will have had news of us from C'ple. We have had a couple of weeks of quiet. The strain has slackened considerably. The govt. sent a crier through the streets declaring fine & imprisonment to those who could open their shops & failed to do so. Now they have police in the market to prevent the closing of the shops before evening. The Armenians who have goods remaining & the artisans who could find tools have opened. However the dread has not by any means subsided. The Armenians go to market, ready to flee at a moments notice. There is not a particle of confidence that the massacre would not be repeated if opportunity. Only there is the hope that the outside world would not allow the terrible affair to occur again. The outdistricts are in the same state. The officials here, we have two men who would rank high in the Turkish service Shakir & Raouf Pashas & who would like to do something but whose hands are tied, are doing nothing. Another great hardship is being visited on some villages that were able to save themselves by paying heavy presents to Kurds. The tax is being collected from them that properly belongs to people who have fled. This attempt is new & may not succeed & the officials may withdraw their hands when they find that the collection is impossible.

I have been very busy preparing for relief work. I have listed over 1000 persons of the most destitute. Now the Govt. has begun work & is listing the plundered & proposes to give flour for six months. This will lighten our burden a great deal if carried out. It embarrasses our work a bit, for we have not much hope it will be carried out & we do not want to relieve those who receive that ~~relief~~ assistance.

I received a telegram from Mr. Dwight proposing that Mr. Barnum would come & assist. I gladly accepted & hope he will come this next week. It will be a great comfort to me to have a companion in this work. I have organized a Com. for relief work & they are serving very well.

I got nothing from Bitlis this week. I trust a letter went on to you from there. A note fr. Dr. Raynolds at Van dated Dec 11. announced his arrival at Van & great improvement in health. I may as well enclose his letter in case his may not

not have reached you. We had nothing from Harpoot this week either. A note fr. Mardin reports them all safe, & Mr. Dewey at Mosul.

I hope you have letters from Arabkir. I have read letters from there to friends here. The distress there is awful. You know the city. I gather that out of 2000 houses 200 or less have escaped fire & 2000 at least have perished. Bad. Marderos with 13 companions was killed in prison for not signing a paper of thanks. His house was plundered & burned His widow escaped with only the clothes on her back.

I am sorry to say that two of the Armenian arrested on the Lenz case have died in prison & the remaining three are sick & in danger. These men are absolutely innocent I am convinced. It was sad to have Lenz murdered, but it increases the sadness greatly to think that these innocent men are sacrificed for the sake of a murdered American. Their families have been robbed & are left in most destitute circumstances & now this sorrow is added. This case is distressing to us because it is because of the Lenz case & the U.S. Govt. does not do anything to save these men.

Oh. what infinite sadness hangs like a pall all over this land! This affair makes us very sad indeed.

The future seems hopeless. The only hope is in foreign occupation, & that must be Russia. In that case our work must cease. Russia will make no concessions whatever. She will either annex the country or not come at all. It will be useless to attempt to continue work here as foreign missionaries. We might reside for a year or two & that in a most prescribed state.

With kindest regards
Yours very truly,
W. N. Chambers.

W. N. Chambers.
Erzroom, Dec. 21. '95.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 2-1-96
Ans'd 3

Erzroom. Jan 2. 1896.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton.

We wonder if you are back at your post. Any more details of these horrid things will be of little use to you. The main facts & details sufficient have been written. If what have been written does not accomplish anything volumes would do no good. As time passes & the condition of the country is made manifest one begins to realize how very far beyond comprehension the apalling disaster really is. We at Erzroom have suffered as little as any, where troubles took place, & yet this is awful. There is this difference that in other places there is nothing of value left aside from the lives of the miserable remnant; while here the Govt. requires the Armenians who have shops to open them & they are in constant dread of attack. On Monday last the Bishop was exiled from this city by Imperial Order. He had only been out of his house two or three times since the massacre & the Government was greatly incensed against him. That day (last Monday) the soldiers were put under arms & the city was almost in a panic. The Armenians were were too closely guarded to permit of closing shops & running home. The Turks were on the alert & ready for a repetition of the fatal 30th of Oct. If there had been the slightest show

P.S. During the past four months I have received three letters from Boston. I would suggest registration for letters to Turkey of resistance the result would have been horrible – too horrible to think of. The undisciplined irresponsible soldiers were armed to the teeth. They had already tasted plunder & blood & they were scattered all over the city. The Turks themselves say that that day was most critical. That morning the Bishop was called to the Govt. house and informed of the sentence of exile, & was told that he had two hours to leave the city. He was not allowed to return to his house or see his sister. He is sent – so it is said – to Jerusalem. The Armenians are reduced too low to imagine any show of objection. On the other hand they – or at least the leaders of them – have signed a letter of thanks to the Sultan & putting the blame on the Bishop for the troubles.

The Bishop had undoubtedly acted unwisely But not in that way. He was no agitator, but had tried hard to keep the Armenians quiet & had succeeded. He had gone too far in encouraging the people in the hope of speedy reform by preaching sermons & in other ways & had held out against the Govt. in many ways. His fault was to count too confidently on the success of Europe in the reform negotiations. Like so many others he failed to take into consideration the probability or even the possibility of victory over Europe by the Turks. The Turks now say that the irritating element is removed from Erzroom & there is no more danger. There are only three or four prisoners of Erzroom in prison. This ~~also~~ speaks well for Shakir & Raouf Pashas- though they have gotten much else by other means.

This incident brings up another thought which I merely mention for what it is worth. The Turks are in the lead & gaining most of their contentions. They concede many points to foreign representatives as for instance they have conceded the point of sparing the lives of missionaries & up to date they-the missionaries-are safe. That however does not prove that they all will remain so by any means. Now the thought that has come to me is this- the officials & apparently all the moslems of Bitlis had down in their program the death or expulsion of Mr. Knapp. Now it seems to me that they may concede the matter for the present & will waive direct means for accomplishing their purpose. However they will not forget the plan & will try to carry it out in some way. They may keep the city in turmoil as long as Mr. Knapp is in it considering him a dangerous element. This was the tack here in reference to the Bishop & there was real danger in the city till he was out of it. The Turks in Bitlis could easily carry out an intrigue & make it appear that Mr. K's presence was the cause. If it would involve Mr. Knapp's death alone, the case would be different. But it may involve the lives of others & the tranquility of the city. If there is anything in this thought, then it suggests the other, why should Mr K. not withdraw of his own initiative? & not be forced out. The U.S. might succeed in defending Mr. K's right of residence in the city, but it will not protect his Armenian friends who are in the hands of the unscrupulous Turk. I would be sorry to see any of our friends withdraw from any point, but the occupation of any particular point is not the only thing to be considered. Besides the outlook is in the direction of the very great curtailment of missionary work, if not of its entire suspension. If the present regime continues our work will be negatived. If Russia comes, missionary work will have short shriving. The missionaries are too closely associated with these political troubles in the minds of the Russians to permit of much favor being shown them. They will not long tolerate what they believe to be a disturbing element in the land. I do not know what the outlook is from a more western point of view, but this thought has come to me here & I throw it out as a thought to those who have a better opportunity of judging of the situation. If we can really lighten the awful burden of these people let us all remain if possible, but if our presence adds anything to it let us lighten their lot by withdrawing.

We are giving bread daily to about 1500 persons. The applicants are twice that number. We are making bedding. Some of the poor women are working in one of the rooms of the boys school. A few dosheks have been given out. The appeals come in from the districts. But so far, it has been difficult to distribute in the villages. One pastor writes that he cannot leave his house. Another writes that 15,000 people in the districts are destitute. Another says that 25 villages & about 10,000 are starving &c &c. Yet Erzroom Province is well off as compared with Harpoot & other provinces.

Yesterday - New Years day - we were quite surprised to receive over 100 callers. We supposed a few might come, but by no means thought of so many. Though it was by no means a joyous day, yet there was a satisfaction, sad though it was - in seeing so many. Some had never called before & the gratitude expressed for what has been done was encouraging indeed. The fact is that if the country was tranquil & the future secured the opportunity for good work would be fine. Had the reform scheme been successful it would have opened up grand opportunity for work.

Since writing the above I hear that it is said by Turks coming in from Bitlis that the city will not quiet down till an Armenian named Khatchmanoogian and Mr George Knapp leave. This is simply a remark made by Turks & may mean nothing but it happens to be in the line of the thought that had occurred to me & is in line with what the T.s. want to do. The Turks are gradually gaining their points & it would be better for Mr. Knapp to withdraw than that anything should occur on his account. Let us not be the means of bringing greater troubles on the miserable people. I do not see that there is anything to be gained by Mr. Knapp risking his health & life. His death would only complicate matters, besides being a great sorrow & loss. Whether he could get out of Bitlis on account of the snow or not I do not know. Up to date the roads are open over the mountains to the east of us & he could get in here. I do not know what the Van road would be.

I received nothing from Bitlis by last post. Word is circulated however that the Bitlis prisoners are being treated very harshly. They signed the paper of thanks & apparently gained nothing by it.

~~[illegible]~~ Another thought has come to me – I have been so interrupted by applicants for relief that I have forgotten what that thought was – I imagine it was of little moment anyway.

With kindest regards

Yours respectfully W. N. Chambers.

W. N. Chambers.
Erzroum, Jan. 2, '96

Erzroom Jan 9th 96.

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Smith;

Your favors of Dec 6th & 9th came to hand by this weeks post. We were very glad to get them as we had about concluded that only stray letters would get through to us. Indeed last week I suggested that you register your letters. It is more expensive, but it gives the feeling that the letters will in all probability get through.

I was quite surprised that you had not heard from the other places; but on second thought it is not much to be wondered at as the P.O. was not unaffected by the stormy turmoil. I have no doubt that you have continuous communication with those points now. The day of our massacre I had gone to the Telegraph office & paid an "urgent" telegram to Bitlis asking how they were as there were rumors here that Bitlis had been destroyed & Mr. Knapp killed. Ten minutes after giving the telegram our affair began & I await the answer to the telegram still.

I enclose a note from Mr. Knapp received this week. I made a suggestion in reference to Mr.

Knapp sent through Mr. Dwight last post. You will have all information about Harpoot & the awful desolation there. By the way if you have not got all the information about forced conversions you might obtain ~~a~~ supplementary information at the British Embassy. (I had Mr Dwight in mind when I wrote that sentence)

The situation here is greatly relieved. Although the Bishop was doing nothing in the way of agitation since the massacre, his withdrawal had a very quieting effect on the city. The Turks evidently were determined to get him out & kept up the unrest of the city till his departure. The high officials here are doing very well now. Shakir Pasha, the High Commissioner, is working hard at "reforms". The Governor, Raouf Pasha, is doing his work as well as any Turk could under the circumstances. Though their best cannot be very much, yet it is due to these men to say that they are doing their best & I think honestly trying to do something, especially Raouf Pasha. A commission of reform has been organized. Our Prof. Vakil is a member. The efforts are rather amusing, but they are tranquilizing to the Turks at least which in turn is tranquilizing to the A's. Now that the fear of massacre is wearing off the Armenians are trying to get something to do.

throughout this whole province the strain is greatly lessened. The reform commission is trying to carry out the provisions of the scheme of reform. The muavins (assistant officers) for Mutasserifs & Kaimakams are under consideration. These are to be Christians. The material prosperity of the land is under consideration. Improvement of roads, improvement of stock, introduction of new cereals &c &c. Opium is one of the things that must improve the country & bring wealth & men are to be called in to introduce its cultivation. This is Turkish reform. The one good thing about it is that it affords a different topic of conversation less terrorizing than the burning one of the last three months.

The Governor has been very nice about the matter of relief. He has put no obstacles in the way, but rather has rendered assistance & expressed his interest in the success of our efforts.

We have been giving assistance for about three weeks. We have four objects in view. 1 giving a daily dole of bread. 2. giving fuel to the most destitute. 3. Bedding & 4 assisting artisans to tools &c that they may go to work. For the week ending Monday Jan 5th we gave out 4248 okes of bread to 1544 persons at a cost of 2124 piastres gold. This affords a little over 1 lb. of bread a day to each individual at a cost of a little over a cent a day. This is rather small rations. But the eagerness with which this small amount is accepted & the blessings pronounced on the benevolent donors show that every pound of it goes to hungry mouths. We would make the dole larger but our effort has been to reach as many as possible of the hungry people with the money now in hand. The numbers are so very great that we fear that the money become exhausted. The stress of this work is a little lightened as it has gotten into working order. The press of applications for some time was great indeed - it still continues. We could increase our list by a thousand people & not pass the boundary of deserving hungry people. We could increase the dole a great deal & not give a pound too much.

Please note this that $1. will afford a dole of bread to *one person for three months*, or to *nearly 100 persons for one day*. A small amount you see goes a long way. But let no one think this an easy task to accomplish. This shows the extent of the destitution for Erzroom Province will need *at least $25,000* in relief & much of which should go for bread.

We have our agents at work in many of the outdistricts. In *Erzingan* - at last report - about

600 were being fed daily. We have sent money to Khanoos, Kemakh, Keghi, Baibourt, &c. & have men in other places investigating. I hoped to have a list of villages to send this week, but I will not be able.

At this point let me say a word concerning Mr. Cumberbatch the English consul here. He is a man of large experience & tact & is very successful in dealing with the Turkish official. He has shown a refreshing & reassuring courage. In fact his example has done much indeed to reassure the terror stricken Armenians. His efforts with the officials I have no doubt did very much to lighten the effects of the threatening disaster here & I am sure his influence has kept many out of prison & gotten most of those who were put in released. He has been most sympathetic & kind to us & I have found him a reliable friend to advise with.

Through Mr. Dwight we received word of the decision of the Govt. at Washington & the Board at Boston, those ~~th~~ two things coming together are very encouraging & reassuring. I have no doubt that there is not a missionary in the field is not ready to begin the task of rebuilding on the old ~~sight~~ site. But building material is necessary. Up to the present time - or I should say till Oct 30 1895 I advised against immigration of the Armenians. But now though I do not advise them to leave the country, yet under present circumstances & in view of future prospects I can't by a word discountenance their going. If the way opens they will leave in crowds in the Spring. If it becomes possible for them to leave they will be foolish to remain. To day an Armenian woman went to the bath & saw some of her ornaments - given to her as a bride - adorning the person of a Turkish woman with whom she had to be pleasant & treat her with respect as her superior. This is most ruinous to character to be forced to play the hypocrite so continuously. The work we are doing is a dangerous thing. It is to a great extent responsible for the awakening of the Armenians for which they have suffered such an awful disaster. Missionaries have done nothing in political agitation, but their work has led to it. In fact where the gospel is preached there must needs be aspirations developed for better things. As long as the Turkish power stands those aspirations will arouse Turkish animosities & the burdens of the Armenians will increase. If only missionaries & their converts were massacred, or those who carry on political agitation were hanged or exiled it would be different, one would know what to expect. But the victims of these massacres & this oppression are those ~~[illegible]~~ ~~who~~ who have no other fault than that of desiring something better than Mohammedanism. Now the question arises. Why do we not preach to the Turks as we do to the Armenians? It is simply because they would either massacre or drive us out of the country & kill any converts to Christianity. That is just what they are trying to do now. They are trying to destroy all foreign influence, force us out of the country and force the Armenians back into hopeless servility. Whether a more aggressive missionary policy would be wise or not is not for me to say, but I think it would bring no greater evils than the conciliatory policy we have pursued. If this work goes on slaughter is inevitable. It apparently makes little difference whether you preach to Turks or not. I like the ring of "no withdrawal" whether it is right or not it makes one feel better. But if there is to be no withdrawal I would suggest the consideration of the question of a more vigorous missionary policy for work amongst the Turks. If the U.S. Govt. is willing to back up its citizens in such a policy announce it to the Sultan & set to work to carry it out. The wreck of the Armenian nation ought to have our sympathy & assistance, but until the Turk is either broken in power or changed in spirit that wretched subject race can never be effectually assisted. Therefore if Europe will not break the power of the Turk let the Am. Board undertake in Christ's name to change this spirit. Otherwise you will work another half century & have your work swept from the face of the earth in blood & fire & smoke.

In fact another thought comes to me. The Red Cross Soc. calls for $5000000. Double that and take the whole Armenian population to America and out of this hell, out of harm's way & there deal with the evangelization of the Turk as a separate question. We here in Erzroom have had a light disaster as compared with other parts of the country & yet ones blood boils, teeth are set on edge, indignation is roused to the highest pitch; ones soul is seized with a desperate longing to shatter these bonds & do something for righteousness because of of what one sees & hears each day in the week; then the next moment these feelings give place to pain, a sense of weakness, & even deep loathing. Give comfort to the man+ who is driven to distracted desperation with the news that his wife & daughter-in-law are held captive in the vile leprous embrace of a Turkish neighbor in Arabkir, in whose house they were encouraged to take refuge because he was their friend forsooth. Give

+ This man is in this city.

him comfort & speak words of encouragement to him. Would it not be a mercy & comfort to him to bid him go & opening a flood gate let his life blood flow forth & find in death surcease of sorrow! His property destroyed, his home plundered & burned & his loved ones held in vile captivity. Yet the Turk thinks he does Allah service. In fact the Turks now say "Our Allah is greater than your Asdvadz (God); our Koran better than your Bible; our Padishah stronger that European emperors; today is the triumph of the true prophet of Allah."

Our winter here has been so far very mild the streets in the daytime are sloppy.

I enclose a few extracts from letters from different parts.

I think I reported that so far I know of only three protestants killed in the Erzroom Station field. They were cruelly killed for not accepting Islam. Very many have been robbed. I may say that the whole Erzroom community has suffered heavy financial loss. One man alone claims to have suffered to the extent of over £2,000 in goods plundered from the shop he occupied & from other shops where he had placed goods to sell. One pastor with his wife & children were left almost naked. The house of another pastor was plundered in part.

With kindest regards

Yours truly. W.N. Chambers.

Rev. Wm. N. Chambers

Erzroom. Jan. 9. 1896

Rec'd Feb. 8

p 4

J. L. B.
Rec'd
Ans'd 3-2-96

Erzroum Jan. 23 1896

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr Smith;

Your favors of Dec. 24th & the mission Secy. reporting the apprs. of Dec 27th were received this week. I have been acting as Mission Sec. since Mr. Macallum's departure. I have copied your letter on the apprs. & send to the various stations.

# One has no heart to comment on the matter of appropriations. The first thought is to accept the calamity in silence. The hope had been freely expressed that calamities had closed with 1895. Here comes the first of '96. The voice of the Board came ringing over the sea "no withdrawal". Every person ~~in the missionary ranks~~ heartily responded. None of the missionaries proposed to withdraw because of the devastation of the country. The message was very reassuring. Had there been a proposition for a radical reconstruction of the work of the mission that would have afforded opportunity due to tell the helpers that the work would continue on the old plan for some months & new arrangements would be made. ~~But now~~ the country is in a hopeless state. Both our helpers & people look to us for a word of encouragement & hope & cheer. ~~We tried to~~ reassure them as the Pru. Com. reassured us. But now.

J. L. B.
Rec'd
Ans'd

we have to write them that there is no hope from the Board. I wrote you of one pastor of over 20 years standing. He was plundered of everything but the clothes he & his family had on their backs while they hid for two or three days in the rocks of the mountains. His people were plundered also. The people contributed over half of the pastor's salary. Now they are as destitute as he is. Instead of coming to the rescue & encourage both him & them, I must write him that we are forced to cut off half of our help. This indeed is a trial of faith. One's faith is sorely tried in witnessing & suffering the indescribably awful events of the past few months brought about by enemies. To that must be added the action taken by trusted & loved benefactors. How can you expect me to write to that pastor that he must shift for himself in the middle of a ruined & hostile country? This man has begged me to give him permission to leave his place because his life is in danger & I have done what I could to encourage him to remain. I am not at all sure that his life is not in danger, but I did not want him to leave till he was certain it was in danger.

Our outstations are nearly all intact as far as the helpers & people personally are concerned. They have all suffered heavily by having been plundered. The helpers with one exception are all in their places. If anarchy does not drive them out in the spring they are almost all ready to remain at their posts.

But this cut of 50 percent is a calamity common to all the missions. In addition to this the action of the W.B.M.I. in reference to Erzroom seems to me most extraordinary. I notice the Am. Board endorses the items asked by Erzroom for work for women. I would judge that there is little hope that the W.B.M.I. will grant the supplies. This is a most effective way of dispensing with the services of an agent. I cannot but think that this action has some connection with the late station troubles. If I am right in that belief it is quite useless for me to remain longer in Erzroom for missionary work. I have always urged that I should not remain here unless the interests of the work are served by my remaining. This action of the W.B.M.I. does not serve the best interests of the work, & presumably my presence here is partly, at least, the reason of that action. Therefore my absence is a necessity, & I renew my plea that you will endorse my withdrawal. Possibly Mr. Barnum of [illegible] would take the place, possibly Mr. Pierce would be glad to return to Erzroom. In any case I beg of you to find some one to replace me. I am here as long as you please for relief work, & will do the best I can for the missionary work till I can hear from you. This spring must end my connection with Erzroom station as a missionary & I presume that will mean connection with the mission or missions as the lack of funds will make ~~that~~ work otherwise impossible. Whether I am right or wrong in my supposition as to the action of the W.B.M.I. it will make small difference as to my feelings. The action of that Board has placed me in a most trying position. One month of the new year is past, during which the W.B.M.I. native agents have been at work. Their salaries are due, some of them paid. I have encouraged them to keep on work. How can I close their schools now? Besides, at this particular juncture it would increase the painful terror which we have been trying so hard to allay. I cannot be a willing partner to this action. It is necessary for that Board to have another agent. Please therefore do not wait to find out whether we will be forced to leave or not. We may not, & we ought as far as possible to plan on remaining. I mean the missionary force, more particularly the gentlemen. I would like to see the ladies out of the country. Therefore please make arrangements for my successors, so that I may be at liberty to withdraw in the spring in any case. My wife & family ought to get away & I ought to take them to the coast at least. If I do that it will leave the place vacant during that time. There ought to be another man here at this time anyway.

The situation seemed much improved here for some time. There has been considerable effort on the part of the Armenians to do what work they can. The Vali has been trying his best. He is a good man & if he had good backing he would accomplish much to administer the province well. However this week has developed grave uneasiness, until to day (Friday) there has been almost a panic. As these signs are mostly on the part of the common people (Turks) there is still confidence that the Vali can easily keep order & will do his best to do so. The uncanny part of it is that the Armenians have no idea when an affair might be attempted & how far it might gain headway before the govt. could get it under control. Just a few minutes ago a man came in for a bit of encouragement. What could I say. One of the teachers of the girls school sent me a note just now asking if there was any danger. A man in passing said to some children standing at the school door, "go inside they are going to begin massacre again". This is the state of unrest in the city. From a near village I had a note this morning asking advice. This village, Factork by name, had a few rifles. The villagers induced their Turkish neighbors by bakshish to join them in the defence. They defended themselves, one of the few villages which escaped plunder. The govt. has sent an officer to demand the guns. They are being most cruelly treated & threatened. They have delivered a few guns. I advised that they should deliver their guns & appeal at once to the Vali. At the same time I can't help but feel that it is like delivering your arms to the keeping of an enraged wolf ready to spring upon you, & a whole pack of the same howling around. It is a forlorn hope. The surrender may appease the wrath of the adversary. In any case they are in danger & it is hard to tell which is the greater danger — to deliver up the arms, or retain them. In many of the plundered villages taxes are being collected. In many cases a few of the plundered things were restored. Now the tax gatherers are seizing these things & selling them for taxes.

Our relief work is going on. We are feeding 2500+ in this city. Over 1000 in Erzingan. Our men are at work in other places doing what they can amongst thousands of hungry people. Yesterday I received a letter from a plundered village to which we had ordered wheat given. The villagers write: We thank you for the favor & mercy you shown toward us. You say that wheat & some cloth is to be distributed to us & we are to go to H. to receive it. We are deeply grateful. But we have no animals — no bags — no ropes — no way of transporting the wheat. We have no ~~any~~ sieves to sift the grain for the mill, we have no vessels in which to mix the flour - no salt to mix with the bread - no vessels for cooking. Teacher M— saw that our bedding was hay & our covering at night was hay. Still by the favor of the Sultan a little of our wheat was returned & we have been eating that — but it was very little. So we entreat that if possible a little money be allowed us with which to purchase some of these little necessaries. Again expressing our deep gratitude for your kind care we pray Gods blessing upon you. &c. This is a sample of hundreds & thousands. And yet this part of the country got off better than many places farther east.

I have nothing direct from Bitlis this week. The conditions there are still grave. The utmost ~~at~~ vigilance on the part of the U.S. govt. will be necessary. An occasional *official* enquiry from the local governors would be a good thing keeping them in mind of the fact that the U.S. govt. is on the watch. The minister at C'ple. could demand from the Porte reports from the local governors as to means used for the protection of missionaries.

Our winter is very open so far.

Yours respectfully

W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Jan. 23. '96

J. L. B.
Rec'd 3-3-96
Ans'd 10

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Erzroom Feb. 5. 1896.

Rev. J~~udson Smith~~ L. Barton D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Dr. ~~Smith~~ Barton.

Amidst the arduous duties of relief work this week I have been busy writing the different helpers & communities of what can be done for them during 1876. In consultation with the Alliance Committee it was decided to inform the brethren that we could only assist them to the extent of half of ~~four~~ last year. I suggest that if possible they make arrangements to keep on the work in some way for the year. If that is impossible then any helper will be at liberty to withdraw at the end of six months, or before that time if it will be to their interest to do so & notice is given to us.

I earnestly trust that the evil of this will not be great. However to people who have been shocked to almost insensibility heavy blows have not ~~much~~ noticeable effect. For myself however this has been one of the most painful duties I have had to perf~~or some~~ for a long time. At a time when all eyes are turned to me — I being alone in the station — & I had hoped to be able to give the word "steady" & "stand firm" in

J. L. B.
Rec'd
Ans'd

your places I have to call out what is virtually equivalent to a retreat. Undoubtedly you feel greatly the painfulness of the situation & would fain do otherwise. You feel for us missionaries. But I doubt if one can realize the situation on the ground & what this means to the people, without having actual personal experience in it.

I will try & give you an outline of our work as it has been reduced of late years. The estimates give an idea, but the massacres have taken place since the estimates were made out.

In Erzroom 20 L. are asked as assistance for the church towards the pastors salary. This Church has up to last year paid its promises to the Pastor. Though none of the brethren were killed during the late massacre yet a number were robbed, some of all their possessions, & some in part, & all have suffered financially. They ~~are~~ were unable to do as much as they ~~formerly~~ they had been doing formerly, because of the growing poverty of the country. The late disasters have come & have almost impoverished them, ~~[illegible]~~ the effect of the late action of the Board so greatly venerated & earnestly prayed for can better be imagined than described. In addition to the assistance to the Church there is the School work. On opening the schools again after the massacres I had contemplated the privilege of saying to those who were plundered that they might continue to send their children to school without paying tuition. By supplementing the tuition & assistance rendered by the Board with a few "specials" I have been able to keep the school open. The tuition will fall off greatly, the assistance of the Board is cut by half, & I have not time to work up "specials". Will I close the school & confess that the Turk has triumphed in that also? Our head teacher is dependent solely on what we pay him for a living. Before the massacres he might have gone to his fathers home in Bitlis. His brother & uncle were killed in Bitlis & his father has been in prison there since the massacre. They lost everything. The father was the leading Protestant in Bitlis - now his family is existing on charity. If we dismiss this man here we will have to put his name amongst those to whom we are making a daily dole of bread. Can I do so?

In Erzingan our work was very prosperous. The ~~chief~~ civil head of the Prot. community with his two sons were martyred. The people lost much in the plunder. Every week I wrote our helper there to be strong & gave what encouragement I could to the people. They soon had the chapel & schools open again. How can I take it all back & add this discouragement to their well nigh hopeless condition. In fact not only our own people but the Gregorians have looked greatly to me for comfort & encouragement. This news now will have a benumbing effect. Our helper there not only preaches, teaches school, but he also superintends large relief work. The people are entirely unable to do what they have been doing in contributions for the church work. We cut off our help & the poor man will be left destitute with his family.

In Passen we have a pastor of 20 years standing. He has been for the last few years evangelist for the plain. His salary is only 24 Liras. In fact we only asked for 20 £ in the hope that the bal. could be raised in the village where he resides. He has a large family & has been able to save nothing from his small salary. His wife was shot by Koords a year & half ago. His village was in a manner protected. The flocks & herds were driven off & presents had to be given to neighboring Turks for supposed protection. This pastor had to contribute. When we cut off his salary he - a faithful man - will be left destitute - a rank injustice against which my whole soul rises up in protest. So I might go on over all the field. There is not a man we can spare. The same is true of the Russian part of the field. There has been no massacring & plundering there but our work is going right along. But I have neither heart or time to go farther into detail. If this step of reduction was to be taken it should have been done last year, or left off for another year. A hundred times better, yea a thousand times better to increase the debt or delay its liquidation than take this action at this time.

If you decide to restore the estimates I will be glad to inform the communities, otherwise you may understand that our financial relations with the communities cease at the half year & I will report the expenditure of the whole ~~est~~ apprs. at the June Semi-An. ap.

I have already written you about the work for women. I continue that work till I get answer to my last letters. I have also written Miss Wingate to the same effect.

I earnestly hope that this disaster may be rectified as far as possible.

Our relief work takes up much of my time. The distress is on the increase. It is simply sad desolation. We have expended over 1,000 £. Stg. & ought to have many more.

Yours respectfully

W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Feb. 5, 96

J. L. B.
Rec'd 3-13-96
Ans'd 3

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Erzroom. Feb. 8. '96

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Barton,

Yours of Jan 13th just in. I have only time to add a word to what I have written to Dr. Smith. I will change the address & send to you. Allow me to add a word of welcome to you on your return to your post. You will have a lot to do gather up the threads of your work. I am very sorry that one of the first things that will confront you will be the old Erzroom trouble. The action of the Woman's Board of Chicago seems to me passing strange & I cant help but feel it has close connection with that old trouble. It makes me sick to think such things have become up amongst all the rest. The work of relief takes up much time, but our regular work should not be neglected but as little as possible. On the other hand the action of the W.B.M.I. at this particular juncture seems - & it cant fail to have that appearance to the people of this station - like a precipitate retreat.

Telegrams from Van state that an earthquake did ~~not~~ considerable damage the other day both to the city & surrounding villages - no further particulars

We are usually well — Mrs. Chambers joins in kindest regards to yourself & Mrs Barton. The Red Cross people will find themselves greatly hampered in the country.

Yours truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroum, Feb. 8, 96

J. L. B.
Rec'd 3-16-96
Ans'd 16

Erzroom Feb. 19. 1896.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton.

As you may imagine I have been in the throes of communicating the news of reduced appropriations to the outstations. There is some satisfaction in giving a little to those who have nothing in the way of assistance. But when it comes to the point of cutting off assistance to those in distress one's heart rebels tremendously. I find it hard to persuade myself that the estimates are actually cut 50 per cent. I have to call Dr. Smith's letter to mind every once in a while to convince myself. And knowing by bitter experience that awful disaster may occur, I am forced to believe that it is possible that this disaster may be added. The following is a letter received from the people of Erzingan. It passed my telling them of the decision to reduce the estimates 50 per cent.

Rev. Mr. Chambers,

Dear Sir,

Salutations &c..... Last year's accounts are closed. Ahane Agha Batoian, Br. Krekore Kapagian & Br Garabed Baronian were elected as Committee. We wish to know your decision as to the supply of our need for this year, what assistance you will render us. Last year we were under obligations to Baron Lalos Shugarian 18 liras. We regret to say that because of the late disasters & the martyrdom of the Manachians (father & two sons) only 12 liras were realized from the subscriptions. With the greatest difficulty the balance was made up from school income (Br. Lalos teaches as well as preaches).

The subscriptions for the present year have been made & they scarcely amount to 12 L, 6 liras less than what we have promised to Br. Lalos. We therefore beg that you will kindly assist us to this amount extra. Because of our distress we have dismissed the assistant in school.

Br. Kirkor Kapekian has been elected again as treasurer for this year. He has forwarded you the accounts for 1895.

Expressing our deep gratitude, the entire community salute you.

On behalf of the Evangelical Church of Erzingan
(signed). V. Bolorian. K. Kapekian. G. Baronian. Com.
Erzingan Jan 27/8. 1896.

This church was a growing church. Last year it undertook half the expenses. It has been making steady progress & has a good record. It has every in its present distress to ask for assistance. I do not hesitate to say that that assistance should be granted. The people have been forced under dire distress to ask this assistance. Will you please ask the Am. Churches to answer this letter.

I have answered it to the effect that the Am. Churches are not only unable to grant the modest request for extra assistance, but # they are unable to grant the same amount as last year, & that only (#) 2 1/2 of what was asked for 1896 can be granted. (Think of it, the brave little church & Gorzingan — all plundered, with the exception of one individual, & three men martyred, — they have continued their services, closed their accounts, elected new officers, written down their promises for church work for the current year & though in terror, danger & distress they pluckily start out in the performance of their duty as a church for the new year. I have to dampen their ardor by telling them no extra assistance, only a decrease by one half. I tell you ~~Dr. Barton~~ this is wrong.) ~~What are our men going to do?~~ and If the Board is really unable to assist them, then I beg of you make ~~an~~ a special appeal to charity for their assistance. Collect enough money to transplant them to America.

It may be that there may be turmoil in the Spring. These men, if they are thrown out of work, ought to be assisted out of the country.

But enough of this. I know your heart is burdened also. I hear nothing further from the action of the W.B.M.I. & so I judge they have decided not to grant the estimates for womans work. I have made private appeals for assistance for that work for four months. Of course I am not sure I can get that.

We have just received through the English Consul that Mr. MacNaughton has left C'ple. to come to our relief. This is very pleasant news. He will be a great help. I hope he may be here in 12 or 15 days. This relief work increases in volume. The destitution increases day by day. There are many persons leaving here for Russia. Passports are freely given. But though hundreds may get away in this way, thousands must remain to starve. What is to be the condition of the country! This is all very awful. A Turkish official came here from Orfa. He reports that he had a dangerous time & was scarcely able to persuade people that he was a Moslem.

Yours very truly,

W. N. Chambers

P.S. I have gone on the supposition that this work is to be permanent & [illegible] I will be known as [illegible] the people all communities

J. L. B.
Rec'd 3-30-96
Ans'd 4-7

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Erzroom. Feb. 27. '96.

Rev. J. L. Barton DD.
Boston.

Dear Dr Barton,

I have no letter from you to answer. By the way I would suggest again that you register your letters. Many letters are opened here, & the unregistered letters are in danger of being lost or confiscated. All American friends ought to register letters to Turkey. I send my letters through the consulate to Cple. This last is between you & me.

I have nothing from Bitlis for two weeks. The road is blocked with snow. The conditions there still hold. The arrests are still the order of the day. The distress must be awful in & around the city. It is reported that about 1000 persons were killed in the Bitlis Province. This seems a very small estimate. Still the Koords gave time more to plunder than murder. 4000 & more are said to have been forced into Islamism. I imagine that our friends there are all well. The action of the U.S. Govt. in determining to protect its subject has taken effect. The Govnr. here sent me word today that I was to have a squad of soldiers for protection in accordance with the demand of the U.S. Govt. This must be a general order & so the Bitlis friends are now safer than ever. The Eng. Consul here, Mr. Cumberbatch, has been very attentive & has looked after our protection. However I did not care to say that further measures for protection were not necessary, & although I do not think a guard necessary I do not make any objection. The placing of the guard belongs to the Govts. So I presume we will have a guard at the door.

The state here continues to be quite nervous. Ramazan is always a "nasty" time, & of course it is all the more so now. There are all sorts of reports For instance, it is said by some Turks that an order has come for a "24 hour massacre". It is to begin tomorrow (Friday). Much is said about March &c. These kind of things added to the usual Ramazan feeling make much uneasiness. I do not anticipate any thing serious. But all confidence is gone. The Vali & Shakir Pacha continue to keep up a careful watch.

The immigration movement is taking on large proportions. About 2000 have gone from this city to Russia. The whole population is searching for means to flee. Even suppose safety is established immigration or continuation of assistance must be the only means of saving thousands from starving. We have not full returns yet from our agents in the districts, but from imperfect returns I judge that we have reached between 15 & 20,000 destitute people. By the same returns it is evident that over 50,000 people in this province are in destitute condition with no hope of bettering their condition by remaining. They have not enough to take them out of the country. I am convinced that the numbers are larger than this. The outlook is hopeless, & most distressing. It is to be hoped that the assistance from America for transporting the people will be forthcoming. Before abandoning these people to hopeless despair & slavery some such attempt ought to be made.

I give you the translation of a petition for relief;

Rev. Wm. C. —— Am. Missionary.

Benevolent Father,

Your handmaiden is the widow of the late Lusbaronian Kevork agha. Up to the present, in order not to dishonor my husband's tomb, I have not extended my hand to any one for charity. Secretly selling my possessions (household goods) I have maintained myself. By by continuously selling my stock is exhausted, & I have no means of livelihood left, for which reason with four small orphan children I find myself in need of daily bread.

Honored Sir, Our friends & neighbors know that we are of that class of people who are not ashamed to work. It has been a question of pride & honor that has prevented me from asking assistance up to the present. But now patience & the power of endurance being exhausted I come to entreat that you will personally examine my house & condition & if you judge it necessary grant me & my children some bread for which you will make me deeply grateful.

(Signed) Widow Krapeon—

This was countersigned as follows;—

I testify that the lady presenting this petition is in a bitterly destitute state & she is worthy of sympathy and assistance & I entreat that you show her favor.

Signed by the Bishop's vicar.
Feb. 26. 1696.

this is a sample of many.

With kindest regards
Yours very truly
W. L. Chambers.

P.S. We anticipate with pleasure the coming of Mr McNaughton next week.

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P.S. Saturday. 29th. Yesterday passed off quietly, but a panicky feeling prevailed. One of our people died the night before (an old woman - long in bad health). At the time of the funeral services some of the people were standing on the street at the door. Some ~~pass~~ Turkish women passing along said to them "Do not stand here, go inside. There is danger today. Our people talk a great deal. So be careful & keep inside." While the sexton was digging the grave he heard two pistol shots & as the graveyard is out of the town he thought the massacre had begun. Such things keep the wretched Armenians in a most nervous condition. Few believe that another massacre will take place but who knows. These same things preceded the great massacre & we pooh poohed them. It is reported that Congress has decided to assist the Armenians.

An intelligent man was in yesterday & said that if the way would open to America, or Europe the whole Prot. pop. would go gladly. But only dire distress would drive them to Russia.

W.N.C.

P.S. No 2. Mr. Sachtleben left here on Monday last. I think I have reported to you from time whine the result of his mission. He has seen a great deal of the conditions holding in the country. He has a good set of magic lantern slides. I have given him a note of introduction to you. I would suggest that if he lands at Boston you would arrange for a magic lantern lecture for him. He is a nice fellow & can give you much ~~indef~~ information. He was guest with us during his 9 months stay here

W. N. C.

Erzroom, Feb. 27, '96

Rp 2-5

J. L. B.
Rec'd 3-30-96
Ans'd 4-7

Erzroom. March 7. '96

R. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Barton,

Yours of Feb 1st at hand. I was most surprised to hear that Mr. Knapp's case had become so serious. If a trial was to take place here would have been the place. The Eng. consul here - Mr. Cumberbatch - would have been the best man possible for it. However as Mr. K. goes to C'ple - so it is reported now - I hope the trial will be long delayed. It will be a test case & may have serious consequences. The Ts. will turn heaven & earth to make some of the mud stick. Mr. K. may have been too expressive of his sympathy for a race being reduced as "low as possible" according to the command of the Koran. But who has not had the same sympathy. The Turk stands for the moment grandly triumphant, grandly from his own point of view, & triumphant from every point of view. The elation of this victory will make him aggressive ~~se~~ he has become. In fact I hope he (the Turk) will be very aggressive & possibly this case will be a means of arousing the sober second thoughts of the Am. people. That discussion in Congress manifested a state of deep feeling - but that is only injurious to the cause here. If it goes - like the U.S. consuls to Erzroom & Harpoot. Better a thousand times that nothing should be said. There should be as little such discussion as possible, but decided action. May God prevent a repetition of the monumental blunder of Europe of not knowing what they could & could not do.

Some of the prisoners have been released from the Bitlis prison - probably all. Van reports a serious state, because of the threatening attitude of the Koords & their thirst for revenge. Here the state is getting into one of chronic panic. The Govt. is acting well, but every other day's panic destroys the confidence of the day before. The Govr. seems on the alert & of course does all he can, but can't keep all Turks fr. threatening. Mr. Terrell's representations to the Porte seem to have caused action. The Vali sent me word the other day that he would send me a guard. That had already been arranged for by the consul & the consul took this matter up ~~It~~ and so arranged with the Vali as to secure greater care.

The immigration craze continues & everyone who can is making arrangements to leave. Our people are arranging to leave. I can't urge them to remain. In fact the only salvation for them is transportation. This awful distress must inevitably continue for months, if not for two years. A second harvest must come before the people can eat to decent satisfaction. Even suppose thousands of pounds are poured in to the country for the reconstruction of the farming industry the coming harvest can't be large.

Mr. McNaughton arrived here on ~~Friday~~ Thursday. It is a great joy to us & a tremendous relief.

Miss Chambers had sent in her resignation which has just this moment come to hand. I presume she will have written you & Chicago.

I will write you more at length next week.

I hope you will understand that the action of the W.B.M.I. in granting no appropriations for women's work was the reason of my bringing up my resignation again. Remember I am carrying on the girl's schools without any appropriations. Possibly this transgression of rules will fortify my resignation. However I will not close up work till I am definitely ordered to do so & then I must leave. I believe the Am. Board will restore the estimates. I can't think that such action so disastrous in its consequences can persisted in. Please let us know by the shortest line possible of the restoration. You must add to the debt if that is necessary. In any case the estimates must be restored.

Kindest regards

Yours ever most truly
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Mch. 7. 96.

J L B
Rec'd. 4-6-96
Ans'd. -7

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Erzroom. March 12. 96

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton.

Your favor of Feb. 1st & Dr. Smith's of the 7th Feb. are both at hand.

Apparently Mr. Knapp's case is decided on & he is planning to go on to C'ple. My suggestion was to anticipate any such action on the part of the Turk. govt. However if the case is well watched it may have a good effect. However I doubt the possibility of his return to Bitlis. The U.S. govt. will not force that. Mr. K. suggests a retaliatory case of libel. Remember this is Turkey & Turkey has gained a tremendous triumph. After the complete defeat of English diplomacy & the complete triumph of Turkey & a great triumph of Russia the U.S. govt. cannot carry on a libel suit. Carefully count the cost. The only authority in this land is the will of the Sultan & he will decide the libel suit. If the U.S. govt. can break or circumvent that well & good. Otherwise don't try the impossible. Be content with the withdrawal of the charges ag. Mr. K. if possible his return to Erzroom. It is a terrible disgrace that Christendom lies at the fect of the Sultan, but it is nevertheless true & the best has got to be made of it. I hope Mr. Knapp will come this way.

I pass on a suggestion from Bitlis in answer to my raising the question of withdrawal. Mr. Cole proposes Mr. Knapp for Erzroom & Mr. Knapp declares Mr Cole as the man for Erzroom. I will be glad to give place to either or both of them, & quite possibly this may afford a solution of the Erzroom question. I have as yet no explanation of the woman's Board's action. Aside from my own personal considerations I would advise you to favourably consider my withdrawal. The station questions dont seem to settle while I am here. Besides I think Mrs. Chambers health needs the change. In fact I wish I had authorization to send her on to C'ple in early summer.

Many of the people are going & the community will be greatly reduced. But if tranquility is preserved in the country there will be much work to be done.

I presume Miss Chambers will have written you as to her resignation. She gives no explanation of her action further than to think that it was prompted by the question

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of my withdrawal. Her resignation is as follows:-

"To the members of the E. T. M.

Dear Brethren & Sisters,

Feeling that the time has come when I should sever my connection from Erzroom Station I herein tender my resignation to the mission hoping that the loss of work in the several stations may not be so great as to prevent action being taken.

In as much as my indebtedness was in a great measure owing to my ill health & for my arranging for a permanent residence there, also through the replacing of losses sustained while my outfit was on the way out. I beg that the mission may vote me a grant of fifteen Liras that my account may be closed.

Kindly yours

Very sincerely yours

March 2nd 96, (signed) Effie M. Chambers."

By this post I am sending a copy of this to the mission stations asking that they taken action in expressing themselves. I I will report by card as soon as I get returns.

On this question I do not wish to express myself one way or the other.

We were delighted last week in the arrival of Mr McNaughton. He has been a great help & comfort. The relief work grows. We are getting assistance to between 20 & 25,000 people. We estimate that more than half of the Armenian population of the province is in extreme destitution. This estimate founded on more careful information confirms my first estimate that there must be at least 70,000 people in the province in distress.

The emmigration to Russia continues & the distress continues. The rumor that reaches us that relief work must cease in the course of a month or so makes us feel sick. Remember that the need will not pass for a long time. This relief must be kept up for months at least.

The outlook is still very cloudy. The insolent attitude of the Turks keeps the Armenians in terror. And everybody is waiting for Spring in the deepest anxiety. In the Chabakchoor Kaza at the village of Tchivlik the Sherenanli Koords about four weeks ago attacked the Armenians. Twelve notables were massacred & the Armenians plundered. This same tribe threatens Keghi & the Keghi people are in terror. The govt. gives indication that it intends to do something to keep the country tranquil. It will have its hands full. This time last year we had the terror of Ramazan & the close of Bairam. Ramazan closes on Sunday or Monday & for a few days there will be great anxiety. However Raouf Pasha is doing well.

Mr. McNaughton is with us to our great relief & comfort. We have enjoyed his company very much. He is immersed in Relief work. Mrs. Chambers is keeping only fairly well.

With very kindest regards

Yours very truly

W.N. Chambers.

P.S. I presume An. Mtg. is not to be thought of this year.

Please kindly acknowledge to Dr. Smith his favor of Feb 7. I trust he will excuse me for not answering it by a separate, but we are very busy

J. L. B.
d 4-10-96
d 18

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Erzroom. March. 21. 1896

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton,

Your favor of Feb. 15th came to hand. I hope my letters will all reach you in time. I have not written you every week, but have quite often. As you can easily imagine I have been very busy. Now however Mr. McNaughton relieves me of much work. It is a great comfort too that he is able to be here.

We trust you will be able to succeed in your efforts concerning the debt. After you remove the old debt it is to be hoped that you will see your way clear to incur another of sufficient proportion to enable the Board to discharge its obligations to this sorely stricken people. I send you the translation of a letter from a most devoted & efficient worker in Russia. In reading his letter I felt a deep sense of shame & pity, & withal a greatly increased admiration for the writer.

Another pastor answered my letter telling him of the cut down & informing him that he ~~could~~ was at liberty to seek another field. He says, "I spoke to the people & they will not let me leave. Indeed,

The Hamilton

Hitt   John Thomson

I have devoted my services to the Lord. You know it is my heart's desire to live & die in this service. I therefore beg you that you will do all you can to arrange for this work." In a letter to a friend in which he gives a detailed account of what he lost he says "I do not send you this list to let you know of our losses & distress. You asked me for it & I send it to you as my friend. I give glory to the Lord. Though I am left without anything I know that the good Lord has a purpose in leaving me in this poverty & distress."

You must restore the estimates in full, & greatly increase the appropriations. The honor of the Board, ~~the~~ American Christianity, ~~the~~ is at stake. Remember that first telegram "no withdrawal." Interpret it in its broadest sense & stand by it. In every part of our field our men are doing a grand work, and have the full confidence of the people. In fact the whole Arm. community looks to us. There is a sympathy & confidence that is marvelous to behold. Now is the time to stand firm & take advantage of the opportunity the Lord has prepared for his servants. I enclose a translation of a letter of gratitude from a Priest of this city. It voices a very deep & widespread feeling. And though it is addressed to me personally, it is of general application. By suppressing the names of individuals & places I would think its publication would be of great benefit.

The situation in reference to tranquility is considered as slightly improving. The Govt. shows many signs of good intentions. The doings and [illegible] of the [illegible] are causing anxiety. We have [illegible] of a raid by [illegible] on a Christian village which occupied [illegible] last Fall. The sheep [illegible] of the villagers were forced to pay a ransom. Inevitably such things will occur in the early spring. The Govt. may however be able to get things in hand before any serious outbreak occurs. The condition of the Armenians is exceedingly wretched & unsettled. We have [illegible] over 9000 £ in the province & have assisted about [illegible] people, that is not 75 cts apiece. The local Govt. has done [illegible] things in the way of relief but there cannot be done [illegible] much [illegible] for months. [illegible] [illegible] the prisoners [illegible].

Yours very truly,

Rec'd Apr. 10.

Dear Mr. C

Our village did not escape the troubles of last October in which we lost all means of livelihood, and were deprived of all the most necessary things of life, we are now suffering in a most miserable condition. There are 75 families - 820 persons - in our village. Of these the majority were able to make a comfortable living, & even many considerably wealthy. But now all are in poverty and in need of food. The people at the time of the trouble, left houses and stables & all and fled to other villages. A few days later they returned and found every place empty and themselves left in poverty & wretchedness. To day they are hungry and naked and barefoot. Being without bedding they seek shelter & protection from the cold at night by crowding into the hay. Recovering from the first shock they could only bewail their misery. On the one hand there were the pathetic cry for food & the suffering from cold and nakedness [illegible] [illegible]; on the other the impossibility of obtaining anything for that terrible calamity had deprived us of every supply [illegible]. We have lost flocks and herds, household furniture, [illegible] work implements, food, clothing, seed, in fact every thing. In that terrible storm the unprotected people were [illegible] terror many mothers lost their infants & many others also became sick & suffered for want of care. Now with the change of weather many are dying.

The Spring has come. We have no food, no seed to sow, no oxen, no cows or sheep to milk. With [illegible] [illegible] we bewail our miserable and helpless condition. In the village there were five (5) stores two of which did considerable business. These merchants lost everything and with the rest of the people of the village lost everything and are in need of food. The church of the village was plundered & all the sacred vessels were taken away & we are deprived of religious [illegible].

Benevolent Sir, thanking you for assistance already received, we further present this [illegible] the conditions [illegible] seeking favor and help at your hands for the suffering people, & that you may pour balm on our wounds.

Every praying &

March 23. 1896.

In behalf of the village community

Erzroom.

Signatures

A most reliable person who visited this village testifies to the truth of the above. He rendered some assistance to the most destitute.

J.
Rec'd
Ans'd

J. L. B.
Rec'd 4-10-96
Ans'd 14

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Dear Dr. Barton,

I am not sure that I have informed you. But possibly you have heard that we expect a little stranger in our house about the close of April. This added to all that Mrs. Chambers has had to endure this winter has tried her power of endurance. We have asked Dr Kimball, & in case that is impossible, Dr. Reynolds to come on from Van for that time. Mrs Chambers condition adds not a little anxiety - more particularly as the coming of either of the Drs. from Van must be doubtful. There is a physician here, but one I would only call for such service in case no other is available. He has rendered very commendable service indeed in looking the wounded. But I would much prefer not to put Mrs. Chambers case into his hands if I can help it.

Yours

W.N.C.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 4-21-96
Ans'd 21

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Erzroom. March. 27. '96.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston. Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton.

I have nothing of new interest to report & send only this note to let you know how we are. So far the country is quiet & there is manifest effort to maintain it so. The higher officials seem actuated by intention to do so. It is hoped they may succeed.

The distress is on the increase. I send you two letters (translations) the one showing gratitude, the other the need throughout the country. The collection of tax is giving many a good deal of trouble. The & spring seeding time is on & what is to be done!

I have nothing direct from Bitlis for a couple of weeks. The situation there seems to remain quite unsettled, the As. who were dismissed from prison are not able to leave their houses. I am not at all sure of Mr. Knapp's movements, but hope they will come this way. I suppose you hear direct from Van they passed through a critical point there. But the govt. showed itself on the alert. Some leading Koordish chief have been called into Van & are held for the good behaviour of the tribes. Several others are wanted. The notorious Husein Pasha is here & held on the same ground. The other day some Koords in Passen threatened a village. A very strict order was sent for the apprehension of the Koords.

While writing I may as well give you the gist of the conversation we had with a high official - one of Shakir Pasha's suite - on Bairam. The conversation lasted over an hour. The gist of the contention on his side was about as follows. Many Turks had held high opinions of missionaries & their work, others were platonic in their attitude, others looked on them with gravest suspicion. He himself professed to be of the first class. But because of the things brewing for some years culminating in the late troubles, great doubt had been cast on the attitude of the missionaries. Those who were opposed are greatly strengthened in their opposition, those who were indifferent have become quite suspicious, those who were favourable disposed have been thrown into great doubt & even suspicion. Our answer was partly in his own words to the effect that missionary work had the effect of leading the people to higher perceptions of morality & religion, better principles of material prosperity, & the inspiring of a desire for improvement. But in addition to that we urged that we had nothing to do with political agitation. The N. Testament order was the subject to authority as constituted which we preached. However we said that that suspicion had been cast on us because of the late troubles. It was without real foundation & only time will prove that that suspicion is without foundation. We assured him that the missionaries were the best friends of the country. The interview was a very pleasant one. The official wished to impress us with the thought that we yet could gain the confidence of the Govt. if special efforts were made. But to compound with the Js. is quite thinkable to him, he does not realize that it is not to us, or anyone who wishes to preserve ~~the~~ his selfrespect.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. C. Chambers.

[illegible] in their [illegible] became quite suspicious those [illegible] while disposed have been through with great doubts & even suspicions. Our enemy [illegible] in his own words [illegible] had the spirit of leading the people [illegible] conditions of morality religion [illegible] material

J. L. B.
'd 4-27-96
'd 48

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D. Erzroom April 3, '96.
Boston,

Dear Dr. Barton

Your favors of Feb 27 & March 3. came to hand by this post. The list of approp. of Contingents of W.B.M. & W.B.M.I. was included. Evidently some of your letters have been lost. I have not yet received a list of regular appropriations yet. I would judge also that the W.B.M.I. must have made the approps. for women's work in Erzroom, because that Board grants a contingent item, which I presume could not have been done in case the regulars were not granted. I will be glad to know that the W.B.M.I. only wished for further information before taking action on the Erzroom Estimates. That is however a most inadequate excuse. Their action was a most inconsiderate one & staggering withal. Possibly I should have taken it calmly & philosophically but it was a stunning blow. I hope it will be rectified. I have already passed on to you the suggestions from Bittis about Mr Cole & Mr Knapp. I wish just here to say that while the situation seems to require my presence here I am ready to remain only I would like endorsement to send my family away for a change they — both Mrs Chambers & the children — need it greatly

It was only the action of friends that led me to bring up the question of withdrawal at this time. Yet I am ready at any time to accept a change.

Mr. McNaughton has been a tremendous help. I realize more how much I needed that help & I dread the time of his leaving. The last news from his family was very disturbing - his baby having the small pox. He would be glad to return & may feel it his duty to do so soon. I can't say anything in opposition, though his assistance has been great indeed. The work goes on. The need of assistance to the farmers is most pressing, but what can we do?

As to the expulsion of missionaries, I would say that such a thing is not very likely. It is in the mind of Russia & now the Turks have the thought, but I doubt if they will undertake to put it into execution. They have no ground to go on other than the general principle that such people are not acceptable. If the charges brought up in special cases are met even fairly well, I doubt if the question will be greatly agitated. Undoubtedly missionary work will not enjoy the same confidence & freedom as before. Petty annoyances & hindrances will be increased & some may be forced out in that way. Well, even that may be permitted by the Lord. What appeared an impossibility has occurred - & this may be possible. The Lord may have other & better ways of carrying on his work.

Hearty congratulations on the cancelling of the debt. It is to be hoped that the friends of this work will not allow the charity calls to turn attention from the regular work. Let them know that it is most distressing work trying to force $30 to do the work of $80.

The prospect that the govt. will be able to preserve tranquility continues hopeful. Small affairs take place now & then just enough to keep the Armenians in dread & the govt. on the alert. Just outside the city walls an Armenian was robbed & wounded & his arm broken. The govt. imprisoned some Turks. It is very strange how lightly we get to esteem such an occurrence, which is in itself very serious indeed.

Word has just been received that the English Consul at Moosh - Mr. Hampson - has gone on to Bitlis. We know not why, but judge it to be in connection with Mr. Knapp's case. Our last word from there was that they proposed to leave about May 1st.

Today the Vali called on Mr. Cumberbatch to inform him that he (the Vali) had received instructions from C'ple. to organize mixed com-missions, for the distribution of relief. This is evidently the result of negotiations in reference to the Red Cross people. The Vali's proposition to the Consul to place the distribution of all foreign money under this commission. We have no instructions from C'ple. about the Red Cross Soc. & the Consul assumed that we could not accept the proposition for the funds we were distributing till instructions had been received fr. the Central Comtt. in C'ple. I presume it will take on this aspect. The mixed commission may take up a good deal more time. But the assistance rendered to the people will be great. The Red Cross flourish called too great attention to the matter & now it will not be able to do anything without such a mixed commission. However if the money is carefully guarded it may be of great service. The difficulty will be in the districts. There the Turkish officials will overbear the other members of the commission.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 4-27-96
Ans'd 28

Erzroom April 4. '96.

Dear Dr. Barton:

Your favor of March 10th. just in & the post closes. Thank you heartily for your words of good cheer & sympathy. Dark though the outlook is from every direction except from above it devolves on us to stand as steady as possible. I have written you the response of some of our helpers. I have also written you of the relief work we are doing enclosing appeals from various persons and places. The country seems to quiet, but the distress is awful.

I will decide to continue the girls schools till the end of this term, i.e. till July - especially here in Erzroom. The delay in the action of the W.B.M.I. is very strange. How is it they have granted one tenth of Contingents & none of the regular estimates?

Allow me to assure you that we appreciate your most trying position - delicate & embarrassing. May the Lord give you strength!

Kindest regards,

W.N.C.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 5-11-96
Ans'd 18

Erzroom. April. 13. '96.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Your favors of March 14. 16. & 19 came to hand yesterday. The $100 reported in your favor of the 19th is very opportune & will be used as you suggest.

I note your communication in reference to the action of the W.B.M.I. One is glad to put off the performing a painful duty as long as possible. And it is a melancholy satisfaction to know that the girls schools need not be closed till July. Possibly by that time arrangements may be effected for the continuation of them. I would call attention to ~~this~~ a danger which threatens in this case. There is every reason to hope that the proposal to expel the missionaries will be defeated. Then work may continue for some time - possibly years. If these schools which are now in operation, continue so, there is every hope that they will not be closed. If however they are once closed, it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to open them again. I give this caution & trust it may receive due consideration.

I note that the W.B.M.I. has granted $213. for salaries for six months. Possibly the Board has

J. L. B.
Rec'd
Ans'd

sufficient reasons for not granting the amount due to the govt. as tax on the school building. However that may be, I have not valid reasons in hand to enable me to refuse to pay the amount to the tax collector. I can't well refer him either to you, or the W.B.M.I. at Chicago. The W.B.M.I. fails to grant the amt for tax (6 L.T.). Also it fails to allow anything for repair on the building. Possibly my letter to the W.B.M.I. was obscure. I quote from it. "You will note that the salaries as they are actually being earned today require an expenditure of 877 piasters a month = $\$ 35\frac{48}{00}$. For four months the amount would be about $142. The tax is due to the govt. & it would be rather difficult to cut that out. The amt. for repairs is necessary to keep the building in repair." In the former part of my letter I had given the separate items. Sals (for the year) £106^{40}. Tax 6 00 L. Repairs 5 00 L. The Board seems to have overlooked the two latter items & I have nothing to pay the tax with, nor yet to keep the building in repair. If however these items have been thrown out as the legitimate province of the Am. Board I trust you will make the appropriation. Tax is a thing that can't be cut, & if the buildings get into disrepair once, much injury is done to them.

There is a sentence in your letter which seems to refer
to something of which I know nothing, or at least
which has gone from my memory entirely. I fail
to call to mind any "trouble" between the W.B.M.I. and
Erzroom station aside from the question of the building
fund which I explained to you (see my letter Feb. 22.95) & the a/c of which I
sent through Miss Chambers. I have never re-
ceived any letters from the W.B.M.I. - not even answers
to three or four which I have written -, nor have I
seen any letters from there that may have come
to my associates. Consequently I am entirely
in the dark as to what is referred to by the "trouble"
or their lack of information" as to whether "(certain appropri-
ations made by them) that money ~~money~~ was used for
woman's work, or for the general work of the Board".
Possibly they would kindly specify somewhat as to the
trouble, & as to the particular appropriation referred to
as possibly misapplied. I am not conscious of having
made this misapplication & ~~[illegible]~~ the a/cs. [illegible] not
show that such misapplication had been made.

The only thing that I can find is the question
about the building fund which was supposed to have
been loaned to the work. I would refer you to my letters
of Feb 22, 1895 for explanation of that. Accounts of the
building has been rendered, & there is 100+ liras

to the credit of that fund. I have not the slightest objection to the W.B.M.I. being "particular" about the use of the money collected by them. If they have discovered a perfectly sound "basis" on which to carry on their work it ought to be a cause of joy to all persons interested in missionary work. They ought to grant the same right to others & they ought not to object if I should be "particular" in desiring courtesy, if not justice. This is the second time that the W.B.M.I. have made very serious charges against Erzroom Station. 1. the first was the charge of loaning their money to a Turkish official Which was an unjust charge. 2. This new one of having missapplied appropriations. This is a most intangible charge — & a serious one. On these charges they have decided to administer punishment before conviction, or even before trial has begun. I think I have just as good a right to be particular about fair play as they have. As I happen to be in charge of the station the least they could have done would have been to send a letter of inquiry to me before making their decision. If they would kindly specify & also groupe complaints I would be much obliged. I would like to get rid of this "trouble" once for all — I am very sick of it.

Our relief work only increases. The time for spring seeding is half gone & if nothing is done in a few days the time will be past & in all human judgment the next 18 months will be decided as months of famine. In only a few places have Autumn seed been sown. It is all very appalling. The nearly 6,000 £ expended in this province seems to have melted away & the wail for help is bitterer than ever. But the fate of the year will be decided before this reaches you. Will the stream of benevolence continue or will these people have to die.

You will have heard of Mr. Knapps arrest & removal. The story of the order for the expulsion comes to us in the form of an order for the expulsion of the Protestants.

Dr. Raynolds felt that the roads were too dangerous to risk a journey here. The Koords are turbulent & he is not coming to attend Mrs. Chambers. The Coles however propose to come on in a month. The Ajesh region seems to be the most turbulent. Shakir Pasha proposes to visit Erzigan next week. It is reported he is arranging for a punitive expedition into the Dersim. The question naturally comes up who will get punished.

Our schools keep on very well. I have had to turn away very many applicants for lack of funds. the larger number of scholars would require more teachers. In the kindergardens alone we have about 80 scholars. Will we have to close up in July? Our chapel is very full every sunday. If there was room there might be very many more.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. H. Chambers.

J. L. B.
Rec'd.
Ans'd 6-8-96

Erzroom April 25. 1896

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Barton.

I gave you my views last week of the action of the W.B.M.I. I trust the $213. will soon be reported. If I remain here through the year & the schools promise as well as at present I will do my best to keep them open whether the W.B.M.I. grants any more or not. I think I have secured almost entirely the Boys school's expense for the year. The Am. Board grants the school 21 11/00 £. The expense will be about 80 £. The tuition will possibly 15 £. I will therefore have to find nearly 50 £. I have a good part of this secured. Possibly I can do the same for the girls school. I trust you will find the foundation for the insinuations of the W.B.M.I.

Miss Chambers writes asking reasons for the delay of the mission as regards action in reference to her resignation. I cannot explain, neither can I understand the lack of action on the part of the mission.

Van indicates a willingness to allow Mr. Allen to come on here & relieve Mr. McNaughton that he might return home. Neither of the physicians there saw the way open to come here for medical service. We suggested that Mr. Allen meet the Bitlis party in Khanoos & allow Mr. Cole to return from that point. Later a telegram fr. Cple. asked one of us (Mr. McNaughton or me) to go to Bitlis for escort service. We suggested that Mr. Allen should go on fr. Van & bring the ladies & children. We judge that that arrangement has been made.

The relief work continues very (increasingly) urgent. A few people ~~have~~ are reported as having died of hunger in some of the out districts. When is radical relief coming? The women of this city hearing that this assistance we are giving might be cut off, have been visiting the church in large numbers, many of them barefoot, & early in the morning to beseech God's blessing on their benefactors & plead for the continuance of relief.

I send you a financial statement of what we are in process of doing. Our funds will be exhausted in about 10 days. We are anxiously waiting word of another 1000 £.

Later. – Your favor of March 28th just at hand. Also a note from the W.B.M.I. announcing approps. for the year. This action relieves me of no little anxiety for the schools – though at the end of the fourth month of the year. The reasons given for this tardy discharge of duty need no comment, suffice it to say they were sufficient to the minds of the ladies in Chicago. I trust now that item is ended & I can give more time to the support of the boys' school & securing relief for some of our helpers in distress. I am glad to be able to say that a small donation from the Y.M.A. Soc. has helped out a bit in this respect.

As to the "specials" I would simply say that your reporting them to the miss. sec. puts them in the mission files. I have reported the items to the stations as you have reported them to me & in most cases the stations have had earlier word of them than they would have had through Mr. Peck. For instance this year Mr. Peck is all behind in his work & three monthly statements are over due. I would judge that your reporting them would be more acceptable to the mission.

Raouf Pasha has done very well here. He has not interfered with distribution. He however in–

directly indicates that the charge of proselytism is being made against us & that we are using these funds for that purpose. These charges will be harped upon & that also must be expected. Undoubtedly this work will have a tremendous effect. The consul here is working well to convince all that the Protestants do not accept any "soup ticket" protestants. Undoubtedly the Russians & Catholics make all they can out of this.

You will have heard of the progress of Mr. Knapp. I trust this will be of use in Am. to move the Govt.

Kindest regards to all
Yours very truly,
W. N. Chambers.

Rec'd May 23.

J. L. B.
Rec'd
Ans'd 6-8-96

Erzroom. May 2. '96.

Rev. J. L. Barton. D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton,

I received a note from Miss Sarah Pollock of Chicago dated April 1st announcing that the W.B.M.I. would grant supplies for the year instead of six months on the basis of the estimates I had put in contemplating the closing of the work after 3 mos. I enclose my reply to you to save time in writing. I would simply call your attention to what appears to be the cause of misunderstanding in reference to Erzroom & that seems to be the the action taken by Erzroom two years ago. There was no misapplication of W.B.M.I. funds. Later the Am. Board granted the items in general work estimates at first cut out, & the 3rd contingent W.B.M.I. appropriations were used. I trust this will clear up matters & this question may now go into memory.

We are as usual. Relief work on us with increasing pressure. Mrs McNaughton is anxious to get back home. Mr. Allen of Van brings on the Bitlis travelers & they may be here in a couple of weeks. Mr Allen with Anne likely remain here for a white to assist.

Our list of those receiving assistance has gone up to 55,000. The Christian Herald says the need will soon be over. It will not be over till the harvest of '97 if all things are favourable.

Kindest regards,

Yours very truly,

W. N. Chambers.

P.S. Shaker Pasha leaves today for Zingan on a tour of inspection through the six Provinces. He may go on to Hpt &c. or return this way & go to Van & Bitlis first. The Vali is trying to do what he can to keep the Province in order.

W.N.C.

Rec'd May 25.

J. L. B.
c'd 6-4-96
s'd 8

Erzroom May 9. 96.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Barton,

Your favor of April 7. No 4. came in this morning. I have nothing special to report in regard to the situation. No change of note. Hope is up and down. A week ago we had good hope that at least some oxen would be returned to the Christian peasants, but this week reveals nothing done, & six Armenians murdered on the road as they went in search of their oxen by govt. order. The awful cry continues for bread. You know the Kighi district. Bad. Armenag Simonian has been doing good work there. Nearly 7000 people have been relieved. He writes a piteous letter which I hope to give you next week. A few have died of starvation. In one village he distributed wheat & in four hours later he saw the people eating the bread made from that wheat. One would suppose that the expression of gratitude for help in this desolation would be a relieving element in the desolate outlook. But it is painful to hear the expressions of thanksgiving & blessings for they are only measured in intensity by the utter desolation. The contributions have been large indeed, but the need is tremendous. We have just appropriated 1000 £. It seemed like dropping a pebble into a lake to fill it up.

Mr McNaughton proposes to leave at once & not wait for the Bitlis party. We hoped they would be here by this time & the road over Cope Mt. would be open. But neither of these things have come to pass. The part is not here & may be delayed. After the journey from Bitlis they will need rest here & they ought to remain till Cope is so open that they can pass comfortably. Besides Mr. Allen is with them & he can escort them down to Trebizond. In addition Mr. McNaughton's family need him at the earliest possible day. I am glad to express my thanks for his most valuable services here. It has been a great help indeed & we have enjoyed Mr. McNaughton's presence in every way. It may appear to some that he might wait a few days more for the Bitlis party. But I am sure he is quite warranted under the circumstances in going.

Neither the Van Drs. could come on, & the Quarantine physician is leaving in a week or ten days & I fear we may be left in the lurch. However we hope for the best.

Kindest regards W. A. Chambers.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 6-9-96
Ans'd 8-10

Erzroom. May 16. 1896.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton.

Your favor of April 18th came in this morning. I send my letters under cover of consular seal to C'ple. where they are reposted. I think yours have come. Only I imagine one at least must be lost as I have no report of the appropriations further than the announcement made by Dr. Smith in Dec. that the regular estimates were cut 50 %. You must have reported the amts. in detail which report has not come. If that report has not been sent will you kindly have it sent as the official statement of apprs. is necessary.

The Bitlis party under escort of Van reached here Tuesday the 12th. They had a most trying journey the weather was fearful. But they stood it very well indeed. We induced them to wait here a rest of which they were in great need. Mr. McNaughton could not wait longer so he left the day after their arrival. I presume Mr. Allen will report you their journey. He goes with the party to Trebizond & plans to return here for a time. I invited Miss Grace Knapp to remain with us for the present which she decided to do. I have already put her in possession of the girls' school.

The situation here does not perceptibly change. Our pastor at Passen had his house searched a couple of weeks ago. Nothing whatever of an incriminating kind was found. This kind of thing happens now & again. There is much talk of the Russians coming, but little hope. The distress increases. The letters we get are heart rending & the slackening of funds is most trying. The cutting off of names from the relief list is like turning starving people from the door. The weather is distressing also. Today (May 16) we have a snow storm on. We had thought that by this time the weather would have been warm enough to allow half naked people to get out.

The pastor here, Bad. Krekor Kevorkian, leaves here. His eyes are very bad. So we are left without a preacher. No preacher & no money to secure the services of another & this a most opportune time for pulpit work makes one fairly groan.

I see the papers at the Consulate.

Kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

P.S. Please give my salutations to Mr. Dwight. We hope his efforts may be attended with much success. Possibly you have heard of the diplomatic play in connection with Shakir Pasha's trips through the six provinces. I think I wrote you that Pridyvalski the military officer connected with the Consulate here who was delegate at the Moos-Sasson Commission accompanied Shakir Pasha. It is reported that this was on Shakir's invitation alone. But it now transpires that there was more than Shakir's invitation, & arrangements are made to have the English consuls of the various provinces "welcome the coming & speed the parting guest". That is the consuls will accompany him in his trip in their respective provinces. This appears to be an offset to the Russian.

Three Hunchagists were arrested in Khanoos the other day. The crusade against them is likely to be hot. Some of the Turks who plundered & burned the Hassan Kaleh monastery some months ago have been caught.

Fall sowing promises well, but the spring sowing will be very scant,

Yours W.N.C.

Ansd.
7-2

Erzroom May 29. '96.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton.

The Bitlis party escorted by Mr Allen left us on Wednesday after a two weeks rest. We have had almost continuous rain. That day was a fine day & we hope the party is over Cope today. They may have mud. They took our large station carriage. I think the rest here did them good & we enjoyed the visit very much. They have had a hard winter & I trust they may have respite & enjoy their well earned rest. I think I wrote you last week of the advent of a baby into our family on the 20th inst. The presence of the Bitlis ladies was a comfort & help to us. We have named the baby Dorathea Nesbitt.

Mr. Allen went on with the party to Treb. He will likely go to Urumia by way of Russia. We judged that that would be as good a thing as he could do. The delay here & the trip to Treb. & beyond to escort the Bitlis party would make it late for him to do much here. He would not have more than a week or two to spend here. The journey to Urumia by way of Russia would be easier & cheaper & safer than this way. So he decided to go that way if possible. During the two weeks stay here I was quite favourably impressed with him. I would judge that he would make a good steady worker.

I have suggested that if Mr. Knapp case goes favourably he might return here at least. Miss Knapp remains with us for the present. I have turned the girl's school over to her & this a great relief. She seems to take hold well. She is planning for work amongst the women.

Thank you for taking up the question of a change for Mrs. Chambers & the children.

The situation remains unchanged. The reform is as dead a letter as ever it was. There is one source of hope & that is that the Turks are feeling more & more the terrible injury inflicted not only on the Armenians, but on themselves. For the last month we have had an almost continuous rain & many walls have fallen & there have been a number of fatal accidents amongst the Turks. They are taking it all as a judgment of Allah.

Today the blanks for Estimates came to hand. I asked for blanks for Tabular View. Have you any? If so please send. I have none. I imagine all the stations need them.

Miss Chambers writes that she has permission from the W.B.M.I. to remain in Trebizond. She asks that her things be sent on. I have not heard from the vote on her resignation in full. Harpoot did not vote at first, & afterwards did in favor. Mardin favors, & I have not Bitlis & Van reports. I will forward Miss C.'s things the first opportunity.

I wonder if that will close that chapter! I understand you have written the other stations as to the advisibility of Mr. R's. return. In that case I presume Miss C's. question will reopen. It is to be hoped the mission, or the members who have written you, will have expressed themselves decidedly enough to enable you to give a final decision one way or the other. This at least is due to all concerned. Mr R. ought to know his prospects. May I suggest that you consider the question most carefully and be sure of your ground.

Yours very truly W. N. Chambers.

Rec'd June 22.

Tab. View blanks Sent 7 - June 22
C. N. C.

Erzroom. June. 5. '96.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr Barton.

I wrote you at the time that Miss Chambers had sent her resignation fr. Erzroom & the mission. It has been the rounds of the stations. It has two requests, resignation & grant in aid. Mardin & Bitlis vote for the first. Mr. Dewey leaves the question of grant in aid to the P.C. He is followed in this by Mr. Cole. Harpoot & Van ask for more light. However Mr. Barnum writes later that they of Harpoot had drawn up a vote & eleven of the station signed it, Mr. & Mrs Gates had not signed. I presume that vote is equivalent to the first one sent, though that is not stated. I presume it has been reported to you direct. If it is in favor of resignation it secures the endorsement of the acceptance of the resignation. There is still confusion as some of the ladies voted, & others do not. The question of grant in aid fails to get the requisite number of votes, though no special objection is made.

I simply report this much to you as a matter of form. I would judge that the question is already settled. Miss Chambers asked to have her things sent down to Trebizond saying the W.B.M.I. had given her permission to do so. The things are packed & will be off in a day or two. She also says that she understands that a grant in aid has been made her, but is not sure. I have no word of this.

We are usually well. Mrs. Chambers is recovering slowly, but seems to be doing all right. The baby is well.

On Sunday night last an attempt was made to shoot one of the new Armenian police by an Armenian. A number of arrests have been made & a number of houses searched. The city is feeling a bit nervous over it all.

A detachment of Hamedichs passed here on its way to C'ple.

I will forward my estimates for '97 & Station Report as soon as possible.

In the mean time the cry of distress & hunger is as loud & painful as ever, the outlook as hopeless as ever, the relief funds sadly lessening; what are we going to do?

Yours very truly,
W.N. Chambers.

fluence on different Turks. Some are incensed that so much relief has been afforded & some are favourably impressed. There is an effort in some places to make it appear that the relief work is "revolutionary".

fluence on different kinds [illegible] on [illegible]

Erzroom, June 5. 1896.

Rec'd June 27.

Erzroom. June 13. 1896

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr Barton.

Yours of May 18th came to hand yesterday. As you remark the "trouble" between the W.B.M.I. & Erzroom may be left in the past. I wrote the W.B.M.I. sending the letter through you. I trust it has reached you. I think the W.B.M.I. misunderstood Erzroom entirely. However as long as they have confidence enough to vote supplies it makes little difference. the point is to get the work done.

The reports of contributions to the Board are dismaying. What is it all coming to? You have sent no estimate on which to base estimates for '97. I do not know what other stations are doing, but I hope next week to make up Erzroom estimates. The "special com." of which you speak may have special influence. The way may open up. However we may expect little favor more than scant tolerance in any case. We cant expect much when the attitude of the govt. toward the subject races is what it is.

We were very sorry to hear of Mrs Barton's indisposition & hope that the sanatarium will be of great service to her. We have often spoken of her & wondered how she was. Please give her our cordial salutations & assure her of our sympathy in her illness.

Mrs. Chambers I think is making steady but very slow progress to recovery. Some of her old nervous troubles that seem to have been dormant for some months, show signs of return. She is trying to take special care so that recovery may not be retarded. The summer is an anxious problem. To camp is not hopeful. To remain in the city is ill health. To send my family away is difficult.

The pastor left this week. The church is now looking for another. But both men and money are wanting. I have all the pulpit work besides all the other work on hand.

With kindest regards.

W. N. Chambers.

Relief funds seem used up. The need is as great as ever. We ought to have more. This hopeless wail for bread is most awful. There is indeed something in the world terribly amiss.

Erzroom June 13, 1896.
Rec'd July 6.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 7-20-96
Ans'd 20

209

Erzroom. June. 26. '96.

Rev. J. L. Barton,
Boston.

Dear Dr Barton.

You will have news by this time of the terrible affair at Van. As far as we are able to gather our friends are safe. It is reported to have lasted five days when there was still danger from the crowds of Turks & Koords collected in the vicinity. It is supposed to have begun on Sunday evening the 14th inst. The great part of the "gardens" were destroyed & houses burned. The markets were protected & also the district where the missionaries reside. Maj. Williams - the Eng. Consul - did excellent service. It is reported that he was out in the thick of the fray & was fired on, but protected that quarter. The consulate & missionary residence are very near together. There is a report here that Dr. Raynolds was either killed or wounded. I put no confidence in this report & I think our people are all safe. The districts round about have suffered fearfully. It is also feared that Byazid of this province has suffered badly.

The panic that has been prevailing

in this city & surrounding districts is most painful. Though there is every probability that nothing will occur here, but the absolute lack of confidence stirs up the terror which is already in their hearts. Many Turks have no confidence that massacres may not be repeated & only add to the terror of the Armenians. For instance a Turk gave two liras to an Armenian silversmith to have a belt made. The silversmith purchased silver & began at the work. On Tuesday last the Turk came & demanded the money declaring there was to be another massacre of Armenians. The Turk was persuaded by others to leave the work. Next day he came again declaring that he had no confidence & did not want to loose his money the Armenians were to be massacred again & he took the silver & went away. This of course threw the silversmiths into consternation. You know the native expression & it shows exactly the condition, their "hearts have become water." Eight months have passed & the outlook is as hopeless as it was the day after the massacre. In fact it is more hopeless for it has been demonstrated that nothing is to be done. Would that we could have a little respite!

I have word that the American Consul must be on the way. I wish I knew whether I could rent him some of our rooms or not. i.e. one of our buildings – His coming will have a good effect in some ways.

However let me call attention to another point. It is good diplomatic form to "protect American Interests in Turkey". To carry the point that the missionaries must not be expelled is a good thing & it should be done. But a greater danger is threatening the greatest of American Interests in Turkey. The danger to our work arising from the lack of interest or lack of support on the part of the American churches is greater than that arising from the Turkish govt. I sat down the other day to draft estimates for '97. With a sick & hopeless heart I abandoned the attempt. This thought took away all my strength. We need for '97 at least double of the estimate made for '96. Half of the estimate for '96 was appropriated. There is no hope that the amount granted for '96 will be available for '97. That is to say the work must be carried on with only 1/4 of the needed supply. How is this to be done? The danger to Am. interests lies in this.

You have not informed us of the maximum of appropriation for '97. Possibly you fear as much to give it as we do to receive it.

Miss Knapp is doing very good work in the girls' school. She appears to be happy and prosperous in her work.

Mrs. Chambers is making slow progress toward strength. Strange to say she has not as good controll of her nerves as she had last fall during & after the massacres. It was a blessing that then she was able to control herself then marvelously in the most trying circumstances. Now she is much more easily startled, & feels more nervous over the situation. Possibly this is due to her lack of strength.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers

Erzroum, June 26, 1896.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 8-3-96
Ans'd 10

210

Erzroom July 10. 1896.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton.

Your favor of June 8th enclosing copy of apprs. came last post.

I am glad to know that you think my letter to Miss Pollock may clear away the remaining clouds if there are any. I am very glad to say that Miss Grace Knapp has gone into the work of this school with zeal. It was a great relief to me to be able to pass over the entire work of the girls' school to her. The school closed for vacation yesterday & I am glad to be able to say that everything was in much better condition than I had dared to hope. The native teachers have done good work notwithstanding the lack of close supervision. If Miss K. remains here next winter I think she will do good work in it.

I presume the question of Miss Chambers transfer is settled by this time.

I thank you very much, & also the Prud. Com. for permission to Mrs. Chambers for a furlough. We had almost decided that possibly we could get along without. But the other day I went

& the Vali to confer with him about guards for tenting. He said at once that he was not willing that we should go out this year, & he asked me to abandon the idea. Later he made the same request to both English & Russian consuls. The Russian was preparing to go out last week. The question as far as they are concerned is unsettled. However they can afford to have large guards & we can't. This again brought up the question of Mrs. C. & the children getting away. To remain in the city this summer is dangerous as the air is very bad. So we were in the middle of our cogitations to arrange for Mrs. C. to go. when your letter came. We await a few days to see if any new light comes to us. However I rather think it will be better for Mrs. C. & the children to go. They sadly need the change after last winter's experience. A change of scene & surroundings will do them worlds of good. If we remain here next winter they ought to have this change before winter comes on. In a day or two we will decide the question. One great difficulty is escort.

The Vali objected to tenting on the ground of the uncertainty of the future because of the movements of the revolutionists. The Turks always say

Aug 20.96

"We will do nothing, if the Armenians keep quiet". It is a fact that the revolutionists were the immediate cause of the Van affair, & there are a few scattered through the country. The agitation is kept up on the border in Russia & Persia. So there is no certainty that they will not do something. If they do, the Turks will repeat the Van affair. The outlook therefore is as uncertain as it can be from this cause alone. But there are a thousand others working to make it all the more uncertain. The Armenians are suffering greatly from this uncertainty, as indeed the whole country is. Everything is at a standstill.

Relief work is closed up, not that there is no need, but because funds are exhausted. The need is very great indeed & today the cry of widows & orphans is very great. There is danger of starvation.

The consul Mr. Bergholz arrived yesterday. He is at present a guest at our house. He is a nice fellow. His exaquatur is yet to be issued.

With kindest regards

W. N. Chambers.

[illegible]

comes on. In a day or two we [illegible] the [illegible]. One great difference [illegible] time.

The Italian [illegible] on the ground of the uncertainty of the future because of the movements of the socialist [illegible]. The [illegible] always easy

Oregon July 10. 26.

J. L. B.
Aug. 20. '96.
9-6

Erzroom July 24. '96.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Your favor of July 1st at hand today. Thanks for your congratulations. It was a little strange, after so many years respite, to have the house turned up side down again. Yesterday - or rather day before yesterday, it quieted down again. No, Mrs Chambers was not in Constantinople nor was she on the way at the time you wrote your letter. We thought much of it, but wished to avoid the expense if possible. I wrote you before that the Vali discountenanced our going out to tents, & the air here is so bad that we finally decided that the only thing to be done was for Mrs. C & the children to go out to C'ple. for a change. They left day before yesterday. Thanks for the endorsement of the C.R. A three months change will be much indeed to them. Miss Knapp remains here. I trust if the Misses Ely do come along they will be persuaded to leave Miss K. here. She has begun a good work & we hope she may carry it on.

The Tab. view blanks came last week. Possibly I may have a view that is a little extreme on some questions. I doubt very much whether I did

did the right thing in urging the Hp't station to invite Mr. R. to locate there. I did it then out of a sympathy for the Rs. & with the thought that it might be a good thing. But I have since felt that Harpoot was wise in not complying. It would therefore follow that the invitation of any station could not be sufficient ground for the endorsement of the return of a man. So I must confess that the result of your action in reference to Mr. R. seems to me to be as it ought to be. Had it come about that any station had extended an invitation the mission ~~might~~ as a whole have endorsed the invitation out of consideration for the station's invitation & sympathy & so have made ~~the~~ a mistake similar to the that I did in asking Harpoot to invite. However I am glad to know that the question is about settled. I am sure that it is settled as it is for the best interests of Mr. R. for whom I have only the best wishes. I had presumed that Miss Chambers' question was settled. I understand she has had an invitation to settle. I would judge that the W.T.M. would endorse the Trebizond invitation. I am glad to know that Dr. Parmelee is so pleased with Miss Chambers & she has work to do. It will be too bad to have that question unsettled. Since the W.B.M.I. has given Miss C. permission to remain in Treb. will they not carry out that thought in any case?

The outlook here is as dark & hopeless as ever. You will have had full information of the Van massacre. The district this side of Lake Van - Arjesh, Aljevaz, Akhlat, suffered terribly. A traveler in the suit of the retired Van Vali reports that the Pasha could not endure the sights & sounds of Arjesh & hurried away. The Koords were the tribe of the notorious Hussein Pasha a most blood thirsty fellow. It is enough to say that women & girls stripped naked were driven like sheep to Koordish villages, children killed or abandoned to perish. I do not wonder at Europe for I have long lost respect for its so called Christianity. The English govt. seems to realize its humiliation & impotency. The Am. Govt. seems to be slowly waking to a better appreciation of its duty. The people of both countries have done splendidly in preserving up to the present the miserable remnant of this most miserable people.

Just now I hear the tale of five wretched Harpoot people. They made their way through here to the Russian border & tried to get across. They were arrested & have just been brought back here. Theirs is a sad plight. They will be regarded as suspects & quite possibly be condemned - possibly to death. To day also a young fellow named Ashadoor Hagopian came here. He professes to have been robbed by the way. His papers lost. The danger that would threaten him here is so great if he goes about without his papers, or if he should attempt to cross over to Russia that I have decided to take the risk & keep him for a while. I hope he is true & I think he is - he seems like an honest fellow

I am glad to be able to say a good word for the new consul. I quite like him. His attitude is sympathetic & conciliatory. He seems a man of tact & good judgment & withal a just & clear appreciation of the situation. He seems to have already gained the good will of the Turkish Officials & his colleagues. He has been wisely careful in not showing too great sympathy with the Armenians & so avoids raising false hopes. I think him a fair minded of high purpose.

The non-appearance of his exequatur up to the present is unfortunate. It is now two weeks since his arrival. We earnestly hope he may have it for next week. A too long delay may have a bad effect. Now I am going to take the liberty of a suggestion. Can you not suggest to the State Dept. to give him (Mr. Bergholz) permission to visit his district which includes the E.T.M. He could make the trip in about 2 mos. It would be expensive

But I think it would pay. It would have an excellent effect. " It is a great satisfaction that the first U.S. Consul here promises so well.

The harvest promises fairly well. In some places it is being reaped & we have discontinued relief. In other places the distress will continue till the harvest comes. There is little doubt that great distress will continue in the cities & amongst those villagers who have no harvest.

There have been a number of arrests of supposed suspects in the Passen district. There was a reign of terror there after the killing of seven Armenians of the village of Hasenicar, between 15 & 20 days ago.

I have just received the last returns on Dr. Kimball's vote. Mr. Gates (or rather Dr. Gates) is the only one in the neg. So the mission very reluctantly accepts the inevitable & endorses her resignation.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. N. Chambers.

(over)

P.S. Just this moment a young fellow 15 or 16 years ~~has~~ left my room. He is from Harpoot. His brother was killed in Harpoot. Though poor they lost what little they had. He supposed his father was here. He was working here last year. The poor boy arrived here yesterday to find that his father was killed in the massacre. He is therefore a homeless wanderer in danger of imprisonment as a suspect. How ones heart aches because of this Hellish condition - this sad sad wretchedness.

P.S. I forward the Erzroom Sha. Rept. today.

Erzroom, July 24. '96

J. L. B.
Rec'd. Aug. 24.
Ans'd 9-8

Erzroom July 28. '96.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr Barton

Up to the present no communication has come from you as to estimates for 1897. As time is late I make up estimates for Erzroom on what is necessary to keep our work alive. You will notice that the amt. of estimate for general work is more than double of the approp. for the current year. You have indicated no max. limit, & I have no idea of the estimates for the other stations. So I have made these up on the basis of the bare needs of the work. The amounts asked from the Board are greater that last year because the people have been plundered & can't give the same as before. It is a possible thing to do, to abandon the outstations & give time & energy only to the large centers as Erzroom & Erzingan. But that process only prolongs the death agony. I have just read the story of the struggle in Gen. Munro's mind when he was forced to surrender Fort William Henry. He held out till supplies failed. No work can be carried on without supplies. We could hold out, as we have done, for a time on half rations, but if there is no hope of relief, what is the use?

I am ready, as I am sure every man in the mission is, to hold on to the last moment. But it is only fair to us & this work that the churches, the source of supply, should give us a little hope that we will be sustained. This slow death is too trying to be endured. Will it not be possible to inform us early of the appropriations? Remember we did not hear of appropriations for '96 till the close of January. Let us know our fate at the earliest possible moment. Would that we might know now what we might possibly expect fr. the American churches for 1897.

You will have received Dr Raynold's about the situation at Van. I think Dr. Raynold's representations are worthy of all consideration. There are three things to ~~th~~ be considered. 1. The condition of the country if it remains in the hands of the Turks. There will be oppression, unrest, uncertainty, revolutionary intrigue &c, reducing Gospel & Educational work to almost nothing. Such a state no matter how long it lasts can't be permanent & must be followed by a radical change which may neutralize all the effort you have put forth. 2. The possibility of the Russian occupation. It seems altogether probable that that is the the change

Aug 31. 96.

that is to take place. Their missionary residence will in all probability be of short duration. The question may well be asked will it pay to build up the work again? That is a question the churches ought to consider carefully. The Van circle may well contemplate the idea of withdrawal on that ground alone. 3. The attitude of the American churches. I need not repeat what has been said of the loss of prestige of the Board because of its action in reference to the estimates for the present year. There is nothing to inspire me with the hope that the Board will do better for '97 than for '96. With such lack of confidence, I think the Van people may well pause & consider whether it is the right thing to do, to endeavour to reestablish on a permanent ~~wor~~ basis a work that has been wrecked. These three considerations all seem to point against it & to favor the thought in the minds of the Van circle. If the Board was willing to take the risk of sustaining this work with larger expenditure, which I think is the thing to do, the attempt ought to be made. But when the Board — or rather the Am. church are either unable, or unwilling why should the missionaries? This uncertain unsettled & injurious condition will continue till the American Churches take a more decided stand - & declare their policy.

The outlook seems to grow darker, the govt. is more severe in its action toward the Armenians, more particularly those who have any suspicion upon them, the poverty increases, the collection of tax is increasingly oppressive, the lack of money showed in the ordinary course of nature have brought about financial ruin long ago; the Turks still talk threateningly about places that escaped massacre, or that escaped lightly, the A's. are working their fields in fear & trembling, agricultural implements are very scarce so that in some places so that in some places it is doubtful if all the harvest can be saved before the snow falls. But why continue the catalogue? There is not a hopeful sign in all the outlook. Christendom seems to have gotten badly knocked out of its senses.

I have a telegram fr. Trebt. that Mrs Chambers & children arrived there safely.

With kindest regards.

W. N. Chambers.

P. S. I started out to say that I was sending Erzroum Tab. View. Sent report last week. I have only Tab-View fr. Van.

Erzroum, July 28 '96

J. L. B.
Rec'd Aug. 31. 96.
Ans'd 9-8

Erzroom. Aug. 8 '96.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Barton.

I have nothing from you for two or three weeks. I presume you are absent from your desk. By the time this reaches you your financial year will be closed & it will be evident whether another debt is to burden the treasury or not. Evidently it will. I made up a set of estimates & forwarded to you for this station. If there is to be a reduction from the basis of the appropriations for the current year can we not be informed of that at an early day. If we have to reduce further let us ~~do~~ know it at once.

The outlook is as dark as ever. In one sense a little darker. The city is quiet. Lately only a few murders in the district & some plundering. These are apparently isolated cases. But it retards the growth of confidence in the hope that the govt may not contemplate any extensive massacre. The tax gatherers & other petty officials have the wretched people by the throat. There is every indication that the manner of collection of the tithe will bring great great hardship & want to the people.

these officials will force a large part of the grain & produce out of the hands of the peasants.
Night before last a terrific hail storm passed around this city. The roar of the storm gave the people the impression that ~~the~~ an army of artillery was surrounding the city. The Armenians thought it was Turkish artillery & the Turks thought it was Russian artillery. For a few moments the panic was wild. Many began to run for places of safety. The blackening sky soon corrected the impression. The city was only in the edge of the storm, but the few scattering hail stones were like chunks of ice. This storm has destroyed a large district of ripening grain driving it into the earth by the tremendous force of the storm. We hoped that this harvest would relieve the situation greatly, but this calamity will plunge hundreds into more hopeless want than ever.

The U.S. Consul is still awaiting his exequatur from C'ple. He has been here now for a month, & he has not received recognition by the Porte. He is a good man. I like his spirit, his judicious course of action & his caliber. I have seen much of him & when he gets his papers he will exert a good influence. Do what you can to remove this disgrace of the delay of the firman for him. Some people are beginning to say that he will go back in a few months. The U.S. Govt. won't do any thing. Another thing I would suggest. His appointment is for Erzroom. This ought to be for Kurdistan so as to include the whole mission, at least Van Bitlis & Trebizond. It seems to me there is little hope for the Harpoot consul. Move to have the appointment and exequatur rectified as to read Kurdistan.

Another thing. As soon as he has his authority it would be a good thing for him to visit Van, Bitlis, Harpoot this fall. He has applied for it. Possibly it could be followed up.

Apparently there is an impression gone abroad that I did wrong not to retain Mr. Allen here, delaying Mr. McNaughton to accompany the Bitlis party to Trebizond. The feeling seems to be that it would have been a saving of money & I would have had Mr. Allen's assistance. All I can say, for I have not time to go into particulars, is that both the considerations were of importance which were carefully taken into account. In spite of their importance others considerations were considered of more importance & prevailed. We did what we thought best under the circumstances & I have seen no reason to regret the decision, though I would have been glad of Mr. Allen's company & assistance. There were however weightier questions than that to be considered.

We are well, that is Miss Knapp & I. We remain in the city. The weather is cool. The English Consul has just got the Vali's consent to go to a monastery.

With kindest regards

W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Aug. 8, '76.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 9-28-96
Ans'd

Erzroom Sept. 3. '96.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr Barton,

Your favor of Aug. 5. is at hand. I have prepared copies for the other stations of the mission. The work of the sub-com. which you mention must have been a sad one. No less sad the duty laid upon you of communicating the information to the mission. The thanks of the mission is due you for your promptness in making the communication. Though it is a death blow to many a fond hope & possibly misdirected ambition to keep alive the spark of Gospel light in many a hamlet in accordance with our plans, yet it is well that we should know thus early whether or not those hopes are to expire, & that ambition to be abandoned. Missionary plans seem to have received as rude a shock as did British policy in reference to Turkey. A new basis of action must be decided on. We must wait & watch with what patience & courage we may muster by God's grace. Though it does seem as if we were drifting toward more than danger. I can only hope for two schools in out Stations, where there ought to be nine. Even the existence of one of these schools is doubtful. Do ones sensibilities become blunted in living such experiences as these? Human life seems cheap as compared with ones estimate of it in former years. But are the souls cheapened also? Isn't the preaching of the gospel more necessary now in this land in every hamlet than formerly? Possibly there is more in the doctrine of "limited ~~election~~ atonement" & "election" than theological philosophers are prone to admit! Is God's love universal, or is the manifestation of it bounded by the lethargy of His church & Christianity? Is Christianity only *a* religion of the world? But it adumbrates Jesus Christ whom the world needs & can only get through Christianity. We can find comfort in the truth that the judge of all the earth will do right & wait patiently on him. May he pour out his Spirit in abundant measure on His church & quicken these cold hearts of ours!

You remark in reference to the "reduction of funds" that "we may all learn that hitherto undue dependence has been placed on appropriations". Might not that argument also apply to the "reduction of funds" caused by the loss in native contributions?

The cutting off of apprs. now simply means the abandonment of many places. Let us pray that it is only only a process of "lying fallow" till work may be begun again.

By the way have you any suggestion to make as to the propriety of considering the abandonment of the Russian part of our field?

Our schools in this city opened for the fall term yesterday. The attendance was remarkably good for the first day. I am glad to say that Miss Knapp has taken vigorous hold of the girls' school. It is developing nicely & easily into what we have had in mind for years - a regular & graded system rising from the Kindergarden through the Primary Intermediate to the High School. It is encouraging to see the outcome of effort manifesting itself in such good shape.

The other day I received a letter fr. Mr Allen at Tabriz announcing his intention of bringing his wife & family here. He proposes to go on to Van if the way opens, leaving his family here. I had already written him (he had not yet received my letter yet) inviting him to do this very thing. So I hope we may have his & his family's company & assistance this winter. He said he might arrive about Sept 12th.

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Dr. Raynolds is greatly alone & ought to have assistance.

The situation here as far as feelings of safety are concerned has greatly improved. The celebration of the anniversary of the Sultan's coronation passed off quietly, with no manifestation of hostility toward the Christians, even though the report of the C'ple affair was in circulation. Apparently the C'ple affair broke out a week ago today & various & sundry surmises are made in regard to it. It is supposed that Turks have suffered heavily, presumably at the hands of Turks. Very many Turks here have received telegrams fr. C'ple. announcing their safety. It is to be hoped the wave will not spread as it did last year, in all probability it will not, though there is every reason to suppose that some places may suffer violence.

Saturday. Sept 5. Post is delayed. But the Turks of the city seem more depressed. Cartridges have been served out to the soldiers. This has caused uneasiness in the city, though it may only be a measure of safety. If the Koordish Hamedieh have been roughly in C'ple the Koords will be violent in the district.

With kindest regards
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom Sept. 5/96.

J. L. B.
10-2-96
19

Erzroom Sept 4th 1896.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr Barton:

The other day Mr. Bergholz asked me if I would consent to his nominating me as vice consul, & my appointment as interpreter to the consulate. I judged the question an impossible one because on general principles it would be better for a missionary not to act as vice consul, & also because the work of interpreter would interfere too much with his regular work. At the same time I assured Mr. Bergholz that I was ready to do all in my power to assist him in his work in any & every way possible for me, & that gladly & without any thought of renumeration. At that the question was dropped. However the question recurred to my mind several times & in a different light. Then I talked the matter over with Mr. Bergholz showing him that a missionary could not do the work of an interpreter & his regular missionary work also, but that appointment as vice consul might enable me to make more efficient the service I will in any case render the consulate, than if it were rendered unofficially.

He then said that I could be appointed as vice-consul & deputy. If I would consent he would endeavour to have it done. Of course I could not consent without consultation.

In thinking this proposition over I see nothing against it, & a good deal in its favor.

I did not think favourably of the proposition in the first place, because of the general principle that it is not always well-advised that missionaries as such should serve as consuls. It might give the impression that they were political agents & so possibly injure their legitimate work. Besides it would absorb considerable time.

These objections broke down in my mind. The American Consulates are established almost entirely if not quite in the interest of missionary work. They are here for the protection of missionaries & their work. This is taken for granted by the Turks, hence the delay in granting the exequaturs. It is therefore very natural that missionaries should have the closest connection with the Consulate. This close connection would tend to counteract the impression that missionaries are political agents because of their association with British consuls. The U.S. Consul has no political object, the English consul is avowedly a political agent. So while not turning the cold shoulder by any means on the English consul, cordial & close association with the U.S. consul would be advantageous. It would have a most reassuring effect if the U.S. consul once gets the good will & confidence of the Turkish officials as Mr. Bergholz has.

In addition, as these consulates are established in the interests of missionary work, if the missionary has an offical connection with the consulate he can have a greater influence in the moulding & guidance of the affairs of the consulate than if his connection, or association was unofficial. In the former case he can speak by virtue of official right, & in the latter he can simply offer advice or remonstrate.

There would be a difference in my appointment here from the appointment of a missionary where there is no consulate. Here the initiative would rest with the consul who would be the responsible party. In a place where there is no consul the missionary, if appointed as vice-consul, would have to act on his own initiative & responsibility which might be prejudicial to him.

I would naturally act in the absence

of the consul, which I hope would be when he might be away visiting other stations.

Such an arrangement would keep the station & consulate in close consultation & would serve as a stronger bond between the other stations & the consulate. In the case of the arrival of a new consul it would tend to avoid errors of possible inexperience.

This is about the form the question takes in my mind; as you see a view quite favourable to the proposition.

I would be glad of your opinion.

It is but right that you should know that Mr. Bergholz made his proposition to me personally, not, as he indicated, on general principles.

With kindest regards

Yours truly

W. N. Chambers.

P.S. Mr. Bergholz is making himself familiar with the missionary situation by studying old cases, instructions, treaties, reports &c.

Erzroum, Sept. 4, 1896.

J. L. B.
ec'd 10-12-96
ns'd 19

Erzroom Sept 16. 1896.

Dear Dr Barton,

During the last days of last week this city passed through a very serious crisis. Ever since the news of the C'ple. massacre of Aug 26-29. there has been considerable agitation here. The attitude of the Turks became increasingly threatening. Many indulged in open threats of massacre. They carried concealed weapons. Some cautioned Armenian neighbors of what they declared the certain massacre. Placards were posted calling on the Govt. & populace to rise & destroy the Christians. As you may suppose the Armenians were in a sick state of terror. However the Governor acted well & exerted every effort to maintain order. For this he was threatened by the Turks. He could not put confidence in the military, because they had once tasted blood & plunder & were without pay & the common soldiers were eager for plunder. For two or three days it seemed as if massacre was inevitable. We were thankful for every hour that passed hoping that every hour's delay would increase the chances of the preservation of order. Emphatic orders from C'ple. strengthened the Governor's hands & he took effective measures & the disaster was averted.

The final episode of the crisis occurred on Saturday morning. That morning there was light rain & some thundering. While I was dressing that morning I heard a very peculiar report which I first took to be the firing of a cannon. It was followed by another which made me feel very uneasy & I came down stairs & was informed that a few moments before there had been a hurried movement of cavalry across the head of our street. I went to the roof & looked in every direction & as every thing seemed to be quiet I concluded that the reports I heard had been thunder & the cavalry was a detachment going over to the Govt. house. Later in the day I learned that a large number of Koords had collected about 8 miles from the city up in the mountains & were moving toward the city for plunder under the guidance of some city Turks; so sure were the Turks that the massacre would take place. However the authorities were informed. One story is that the cannon were fired fr. the fort on the mountain to inform the Govt. of danger. The other story is that a detachment of cavalry were hastily sent out to turn the Koords & the fire of the cannon was to convince them that the massacre was off. Since then the Turks have been much more quiet, though there are still mutterings that the massacre will come on yet. The Armenians are in a distressed state of mind & heart. Many have already left for Russia, many are on the way & many are preparing to go. I suppose the Armenian pop. of this city has been reduced during the year by nearly a half - & they still go.

A few refugees have come here from the devastated district of Van. The details of the story are horrid.

It looked for a time as if the country was to be visited again by the bloody storm of last year. Apparently for the present it is averted. The hope now is that Europe having more than surpassed herself in the Cretan question may prevent more massacres in the interior. It rests with the Powers to say an ~~[illegible]~~ emphatic *No* in which case there will be no massacre. If Europe is as careless as last fall in all probability there will be a bloody time. May God have mercy.

The Independent argues that the proposition of the deportation of the Armenians is impossible. One of the reasons given is that the Armenians will not go. I can assure you that unless there is a hopeful sign held out to them that their condition will be bettered here by foreign intervention not one in a hundred ~~would~~ remain if the way opens to them to get away. I think the Turks could be induced to give. permission. That permission is being given to hundreds now. The only seeming insurmountable obstacle to deportation is the financial one. That might be overcome. It would be a great calamity to this land. It has brought calamity on itself & it is a pity to sacrifice the whole Armenian community. That seems their only hope now. They are leaving & it would be a wise thing to direct their leaving. The best that Europe will do now is to extract a promise fr. the Sultan will not allow any more massacring. That however will not make the condition of the Armenians tolerable. Unless there is some hope of a radical change of some kind for the better nothing can be accomplished by us of permanent & progressive value.

The wretched exiles sent on fr. Constantinople are beginning to arrive. Last night 400 of them came in - a most wretched, wretched, wretched, crowd. They are going to ruined homes & starvation, death, or Mohammedism. I have heard of but one suicide. It is a marvel that there are not hundreds of them. This was the case of a girl - one of 14 - carried off by Turks in the Van region. She was able to get conference with some Protestant Armenians who had become Moslem. They could give her no hope or assistance. She went back to the Turk's house & that night strangled herself. Will the Lord hold her guilty?

J. B.
1-14-96

Since writing the above I have received a telegram from C'ple. reading "Repetition of former surgical treatment requires Neclies (my wife) return to America, shall she go with Knapp as proposed by Station telegraph answer" I answered "Go in peace - Mizpeh". This is a very great trial. I was about to write Mrs. C. to return here. But this settles the question. The strain in C'ple. was much greater on her than the massacre here. The first ten days of her visit was doing her worlds of good. But she evidently has suffered greatly. I am quite at a loss to know what arrangement she can make in Am. She will of course consult with you and Dr. Talcott Williams - her brother - in Philadelphia. I am sure you will do what you can to make her circumstances as comfortable as possible so that she may recover as soon as possible. We had hoped to be able to pay the expense of the trip to C'ple. But now I do not know what to say about that phase of the question. With the shortness of funds this extra expense is most trying. I trust the operation will not be a serious one, but I will be anxious till I hear that Mrs. Chambers is safely through it. Please let me know what financial assistance can be rendered her so that she make her plans accordingly.

I have asked Mrs. Chambers to give me a cablegram of her safe arrival in America.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

W. A. Chambers.

Erzroum, Sept. 18, 1916.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 11-14-96
Ans'd 24

Erzroom Oct. 19. '96.

Rev. J. L. Barton L.L.D.
Boston, Mass.

450
150
200
8

Dear Dr. Barton,

I wrote you about the question of ~~the~~ expense of my family, & their living in America. Quite possibly you have already made arrangements as in the case of other families. I throw out the following thought as a possible arrangement. The allowance that would be granted us in America would be (including allowances for children) $1300.00
Sal. in estimates on mission basis. $ 971.82
The difference amounts to $ 328.10
This is at the rate of $27.36 a month. This might be allowed as a special extra grant from the time my family reached U.S. This calculation is on the basis that we should be all living together, whereas our being separated in this way is much more expensive. I do not know whether Mrs. Chambers will remain with her brother all the time or not. With three children and nurse girl she may not find room enough. Can the P.C. allow any special grant in lieu of medical expenses? I am writing Mrs. Chambers to draw $50 a month on my sal. a/c. If you allow her about $30 allowance extra possibly she may be able to live on that comfortably. You will be in communication with her & will discover that.
I have nothing by which to make a detailed trav. ex. a/c.

I therefore will charge through the mission treasurer the lump sums of cash which Mr. Peet has handed to Mrs. Chambers or Mr. Knapp on trav. ex. ac. Mrs. Chambers is evidently worried at the apparent expensiveness of the trip. There were no 2nd class cars from Kustenje to Vienna, & the delay of the trunks was an extra expense & a very great trial to her. The gentlemen in C'ple. made the best arrangements & I can't say whether the expense could have been less or not. However you know a person is likely to worry unnecessarily when in such a nervous state as Mrs. Chambers evidently is. A note to her fr. yourself would greatly reassure her. She will hand in an ac. of trav. ex. which she herself has expended.

We wait with impatience the report of the meeting at Toledo. We hope it was a good meeting promising rich spiritual results.

Please remember me kindly to Mrs. Barton. I trust she is keeping well.

With kindest regards
Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

P.S. Mrs. Chambers took a nurse with her. I would suppose her trav. ticket would legitimately come within the trav. ex. ac. She was a necessity. Mrs. C. could not have done without her. She would not have taken her had I been along.

Erzroom, Oct. 17, 1896.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 10-26-96.
Ans'd 28

1

218

Erzroom. Oct. 2nd 1896.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston

Dear Dr Barton.

It is some weeks since I have had note from you, but I judge that you are busy in preparation for An. Mtg. rather than that the post has failed in its duty.

I informed you of Mrs Chambers start for America. I hope she will have reached America long before this reaches you. I am sorry for the necessity of her going. But I feel greatly relieved indeed that both herself & the children have been led away from this atmosphere. It is no atmosphere for any one to live in if it is possible to escape it. I earnestly hope her visit may put her in good health.

The situation here is fairly quiet. The Egin massacre gave renewed the shock. There have been distressing rumours about Harpoot & Erzingan, & disturbing news fr. Van. In Baiboot the situation was rapidly improving, but lately a reactionary movement set in & a number of Armenians have been arrested & condemned who were dismissed from prison as innocent last fall. This has caused a painful feeling. A few arrests & house searchings in this city shows a nervous feeling on the part of the officials, & causes a nervous feeling amongst the As. The way to Russia is well traveled. Still we have good confidence in Raouf Pasha. The thoughts of the Turks are turned now more on a possible break with Russia than on a massacre of the Xns. just at present.

I have been able to assist a good many of the wretched exiles passing through here fr. Constantinople. I have distributed ox hide sandals & some money. 230 passed here this morning. This makes about 1500 altogether.

I wonder if you have noticed a paragraph in the New York Herald of Sept 3rd I think. It was purporting to be from the pen or mouth of the Rev Mr. McQueen near Boston. Mr. McQueen is made ~~to say that~~ to represent missionaries as anything but upright men, some of them, presumably some of those in C'ple, are said to be "lewd" &c. Possibly Mr. McQueen does not exist in the suburbs of Boston. If he does, possibly he never said what is attributed to him concerning missionaries. I simply call your attention to a gross libel appearing in the New York Herald.

I do not seem to have gotten the credit of $100 you reported from Montreal. Would you enquire? I have been counting on it.

Yours W. N. Chambers.

P.S. Kindest regards to Mrs Barton.

J. L. B.
Rec'd Nov 7 95
Ans'd

P.S. Oct 3. Since writing the above yours of Sept 8th came to hand. I have lost trace of Mr. Allen. He wrote he was coming here. Later, he determined to try for Van. Now I hear that he has turned his face to Batoum. I am much disappointed that he did not come here. Mrs. Chambers left Cple. on Sept 20th.

This post brings a clipping containing a report of Mr. McQueen's libellous statements, misrepresenting not only missionaries, but also Mr. Terrell, Turks & Armenians. It is simply a most wanton & outrageous utterance. Such men come into the country for a few days. They are so broad minded & sharp sighted & cultured that they can study all the characteristics of & understand the Turks & Armenians & the general situation better in ten days than ordinary men, such as Dr. Barnum, Dr. Washburn & Dr Dwight can learn in twice twenty years. What a very great pity the Lord does not divide Mr McQueen in 170 persons that he might do the missionary work in Turkey.

I have been in the country 16 years & I have been treated with great consideration, so that as far as I am personally concerned I have scarcely any complaints to make. But the virtue of the Turkish Govt. cannot be judged by its polite treatment of foriegners.

A note from Vienna fr. Mrs. Chambers announces her safe arrival there. But I judge from her letter that she is about as badly off as she was when we visited America in '90. She is tremendously worried about the expense of the journey – a new route & quite expensive. Her worrying will not make it less, but she does not seem to be able to avoid the worry.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

Would you please hand the enclosed to its destination.

The consul here has not received his exequatur yet.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 11-27-96
Ans'd 12-18

Erzroom Nov. 7. '96.

J. L. Barton L.L.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton

I enclose a copy of a report on relief work in this province which may be interesting to you. The anniversary of the massacre suggested a glance backward & also forward. Virtually the whole of this work has been in my hands. The commission has been for the most part advisory. The accounts correspondence, arrangements have devolved on me. It has been a very hard & trying work. but it has been a far reaching & most important work. Personally I have gained much from it, though in many respects it has been sad, & a great strain on ones sympathies. May it all redound to the glory of the name of the Lord.

One of the saddest aspects of the present situation from our standpoint is the smallness and weakness of our working force in Gospel work. The door seems wide open for magnificent work. So many opportunities present themselves for which we have been watching for years that I am quite non-plussed as to what to do. I fear that trying to touch a half dozen things, not even one gets well done —

The full force of the disaster of retrenchment is yet to be felt. The missionary force is reduced, when it ought to have been enlarged, & now the work is more than the present force can accomplish. The native force is very small & none in course of preparation. I have six applications for teachers for villages - all very urgent - & not *one* teacher to send, even if we had the money. I am using two Gregorian teachers in our boys school in this city. They do very good work, but I would rather on the whole have Protestants as being more familiar with the Scriptures.

We wait impatiently to hear the result of the meeting of the Board especially decisions in reference to these Turkish missions. I hope you have in mind a man for Erzroom. Erzroom remember has the first right.

Mr. Bergholz has not received his exequatur yet. Mr. Knapp was expelled fr. Bitlis & nothing is done. The Bancroft is sent in the (vain) hope that permission will be granted to pass the Straits - no permission is given. Mr. Bergholz waits six months for his exequatur & no exequatur is given. This is rather a poor show for America. England was badly defeated last year, but is this any better record?

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers.

P.S. Mr. Bergholz is sending a dispatch to the State Dept. enclosing the Relief Report. It occurs to me that if published as coming from him it might have a wider influence. I would suggest that you put some newspaper correspondent on the track of it so that it may be given to the press in that way. The dispatch is of today's date. Oct 7. '96.

Yours. W.N.C.

we had the meeting. [illegible]

teachers [illegible] [illegible] only. They do

very good work, but [illegible] [illegible] others have

protested [illegible] being [illegible] [illegible] with the exception

We wait impatiently [illegible] [illegible] the meeting

of the Board especially [illegible] [illegible] reference to the last

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] you have received an order

for [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] for the first night.

Mr [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Mr Kauffman applied for [illegible] [illegible] days. The Board

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] hope that permission will be

granted [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Mr

Bergholz [illegible] six months [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]. This is rather a poor [illegible] for America [illegible]

England was badly defeated [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] any

better [illegible]?

Yours [illegible]

[illegible]

J. L. B.
Rec'd 12-7-96
Ans'd 12-18

Erzroom. Nov. 10. 96.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton,

Yours of Oct 20th came by last post. I note what you say as to the judgment of the Cabinet officers about the question of the vice-consulships. It is probably best that I should not accept. Even if there were not the objections urged, it is doubtful whether the Ot. govt. would grant an exequatur seeing it has not granted Mr. Bergholz's yet.

I was glad to hear that you had a good meeting at Toledo. I have the Independent with Mr. Wheeler's address. But it seems as if the utility of address, resolution, & deputation had passed. The late agitation in England ought to have accomplished something practical. But affairs are drifting, in appearance at least, perilously near the breakers. One would think that God would answer the millions of earnest prayers by some miracle. He will yet say to this wave of evil "thus far & no farther". Possibly he has, & the recession may have begun. There is a quiet, most uncertain, pervading the country. When the time is ripe He will bring relief. In the mean time may he grant enduring faith! The touching resolution you so kindly send today become an efficient instrument in the development of that faith. We have faith in the Lord. But the Lord works through His church. We want renewed faith in the church. The action in reference to appropriations for the current year produced a heavy shock. This resolution expressing sympathy & confidence & pledging prayer & support goes a long way in counteracting the effect of that shock. It is a steadying, confidence inspiring utterance. We heartily thank God for it, & pray God's blessing on the Board for making it. God alone knows the future. Our times are in His hands. Let us therefore heartily unite our prayers & efforts "till the whole land is" indeed "won for the Kingdom of Christ."

Last week I sent you a copy of a general report of relief work up to the 30th of Oct. in the province of Erzroom. R. W. Graves, the English Consul, & President of the Erzroom Commission, wrote a "covering letter" & forwarded the report to the C'ple. Commission. In spite of the personal references to myself, I take the liberty, in all frankness, of forwarding you a copy, because I think it of interest to you & important that you should know the opinion of such a man as Mr. Graves concerning the work accomplished by our helpers under circumstances to them of the most trying nature. I have already expressed myself as to the splendid work the helpers have done. Mr. Graves ~~makes~~ greatly exaggerate the facts in reference to myself. The smooth relations with officials is due both to Raouf Pasha's good will & the good judgment & tact of both Mr. Cumberbatch, who was here during the massacres, & to ~~Mr~~ Graves himself, who has been uniformly courteous & kind & sympathetically active in all this work. I am glad to be able to say that (I was about to say our own consul) Mr. Bergholz has shown himself as sympathetically interested since his arrival as Mr. Graves. To me Mr. Graves' words are an encouragement ~~one~~ in that they assure me that I have not failed to gain the confidence & sympathetic good will of my consular fellow workers in this relief enterprise.

As to our particular work, the work of the past year has had great effect. It has done much to remove prejudice & other barriers between us and the Gregorians. It seems strange in a way, to me to go into the Bishopric & experience somewhat of a proprietory feeling & feel the right to express an opinion on any question, & be listened to with respect. It makes one tremble sometimes to think of the opportunity of magnificent work for the Master, & no ability to take advantage of it. Here I am alone, not even a preacher in the church, & just now our teacher sick.

The resolution would indicate a slight reinforcement in the foreign force. Mardin has it four men, Harpoot has it four, & if Mr Allen returns five, Van & Bitlis have each two, & Erzroom has but one "lone lorn critter". Please keep this in mind & effort. You know Erzroom has the first right. And just here let me say that if I do not get to where there is a dentist to be found I will be a toothless old man in a short time. My teeth already are something like the govt. of the land - very unstable, & rapidly growing worse.

Hovhannes Agha Aghajanian whom you will remember here must be in Boston by this time. Any favor or assistance you render him will be well bestowed. He is a man, as you know, of great worth in character, worthy of confidence & consideration. He stands, as you will see, high & justly so, in the estimation of the British consuls. He has done splendid service in relief work.

Yours very sincerely
W. N. Chambers.

Erzroom, Nov. 10, 1887.

J. L. B.
Rec'd 1-2
Ans'd 1-29-97

Erzroom Dec. 4. 1896.

Rev. J. L. Barton D. D.
Boston.

My dear Dr. Barton,

The only thing of unusual interest here is a most unusual heavy fall of snow. Apparently it has extended over a wide extent of country. During my 17 years here I have never seen such a fall at this season. There is more snow on the ground now that we had at any time last winter.

Another item of interest was in the supposition that I had been the cause of anxiety that existed in the city a few days ago. Yesterday the English Consul, Mr. Graves, called on the Governor. The Vali informed the Consul that he had been told on what appeared to be good authority that I had circulated stories of massacre as having taken place in Alashgird, Smyrna, & Kurek & thereby caused unrest in the city. The Consul instantly declared the information as absolutely false, & assured the Vali that the very opposite would be found to be the truth. The consul took pains to explain my position & attitude. Later the Consul called on me & reported to me the conversation upon which I determined to call on the Vali today, which I did this afternoon. I had a very pleasant and

J. L. B.
Rec'd
Ans'd

satisfactory interview with him. I saw as soon as I entered the room that Mr. Graves communication had had a good effect. I was fortunate in securing a private interview. When I opened the question he declared that he had accepted Mr. Graves assertion & the question was passed. I however took the opportunity of explaining our position a little further & assuring him that we had no sympathy with revolutionary movements. We believed in peaceful means for the reform & prosperity of the country. Our work could be carried on in peaceful times. I pointed out to him that we realized that successful revolution meant Russian occupation in which case our work would be greatly curtailed indeed, as he himself knew. It would be foolish in us, from a merely selfish point of view, to sympathize with revolutionary measures. I called to his mind that he had called our attention to the charges that we were using ~~ref~~ relief funds for proselyting purposes & had cautioned us some months ago. After the expenditure of 11,000 £ T. the facts were the vindication of our integrity & good intentions. The Prot. Communities had not increased because of this money, neither had the revolutionists received any encouragement. We were most anxious as ministers of religion to perform our duty to God & be useful to the communities in which we resided & do what we could for the general prosperity of the country. I assured him that, speaking for myself & our native agents in this province, that the vast amount of relief work done had been done conscientiously & faithfully & I believed there was no ground for complaint from any quarter. He listened to me attentively. Then he very cordially declared that there was no ground for complaint & that he was deeply grateful for the service that had been rendered. ~~He~~ I called to his mind that last winter he had been informed that I had called on Hussein Pasha the notorious Koordish brigand when he had been called to trial for his life. That report as well as the present one was entirely without foundation in fact. Therefore, I said, there must be some one in the city ready to prejudice his mind against me. I would therefore be very grateful if he would do in future as he had done in the past call the attention of either the consul or myself to any such insinuation & so afford opportunity for explanation. He answered that was his habit anyway & what he felt to be just. I spoke in general terms concerning missionaries in general, as well as of myself in particular & tried to disarm his mind of any unfavourable impression

The interview was cordial & satisfactory. When I heard the report yesterday I feared that it might mean that a hostile attitude was to be assumed, or rather emphasized, against missionaries in general. The attitude at Van & Bitlis & the arrest of Mr. Macallum seeming to indicate that. However the result of my interview with the Vali today was to make me feel that this Vali was not in sympathy with such a movement.

I have started a small factory of five looms for the manufacture of Manisa cloth & teach widows how to weave. I hope in this way to gradually make a large number of families self supporting who are now on charity. The Governor expressed himself as very much interested & greatly pleased in the enterprise. The women here know no trade. They are not at all like the Arabkir women. So here we have to begin by teaching them.

We hoped Br. Khachig now in Bitlis would come here as preacher. But he has not consented yet. This would be a great relief to me. The opportunities for work are very great. The laborers are sadly few.

With kindest regards
W. N. Chambers.

Mr. Bergholz proposes to call on the Vali on Monday.

Erzroom, Dec. 4, 97.

Rec'd 1-12-97
Ans'd 27

Erzroom. Dec 11. '96.

Rev. J. L. Barton. D.D.
Boston Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton

Your favor of Nov 4. announcing appropriation was received last week. As you say you have sent a copy of the letter to each station I am saved a lot of work for which I am grateful to you. I have made out the percentage & forwarded the list which is as follows

Bitlis	18%	£265.91
Erzroom	21 "	" 310.22
Harpoot	25 "	" 369.32
Mardin	25 "	" 369.32
Van.	11 "	" 162.50
		1477.27 = $6,500

This is a substantial advance on '96 & will be a very great relief. With a few extras or rather "specials" I can keep the work well in hand. The great want left unsupplied is the Boarding dep of the Boys School. We need village teachers & th preparation for supply has been lacking for so time. However we get supply fr. unexpecte sources. I have already arranged for the reope of two village schools & hope for a third by New Year. During the current year I have been able to cover most of the helpers salaries. It gives me pleasure to be able to confidently re-assure them for the coming year. We must keep the men at work at their posts if at all possible. If tranquility continues there is much work to be done.

As to salaries. I have acted on the suggestion I made in my letter to you & have charged all my sal. up to the end of this year. The new arrangement may go on to '97. You can make arrangements with Mrs. Chambers. I would call your attention to one point - not to have the matter changed, but to call attention to it. Possibly you will remember that Erzroom sal's. are put on a higher estimate by 12 £ than the sal's. of the other stations of the mission on account of the greater expense of living here. The lady teacher's sal. was 6 £ more than for other stations. You have made my sal. on the basis of a single man, the same as Mr Cole's Mr Knapp's. So that mine would be cut by a little over 6 percent, unless you have increased the Bitlis sal's. to the basis of an Erzroom sal. I trust that the 85 £ will be more than sufficient, at least I will try to make it sufficient.

J. L. B.
Rec'd

I am glad to hear of the endorsement of the plan of assisting orphans. We have six girls on hand. I am trying to plan for boys. This may be a way of supplying the demand for teachers.

Mr. Bergholz has not gotten his exequatur yet. It is altogether outrageous! He is anxious to do his duty. But if anything serious should take place requiring his interference he would be hampered greatly by the want of his exequatur. There is another aspect of the question. With change of administration there is the possibility of a change of consul. I presume this is not very probable. Mr. Bergholz is a Republican. But if he leaves without having received his exequatur no one will succeed in establishing a consulate here. Besides, if the exequatur is not soon procured, Mr. Bergholz will begin to think of another appointment. However I presume you can do nothing. If the dept. does not intend to give a preamptory order, it will leave the question in Mr Terrell's hands.

It is a fine thing to know that Mr. Macallum is released & sent back to Marash.

With Christmas & New Years Greetings
Yours very sincerely
W. N. Chambers.

Miss Knapp is well. (over)

P.S. Relief work goes on. We have just received word fr. Cable. A.R.C. of the appropriation of £2400 for this province. This will relieve great distress. I hope you received my report.

Dec. 11, '76

J. L. B.
Rec'd 1-18-97
Ans'd 2-3.

Erzroom Dec. 22. 1896.

Rev. J. L. Barton D.D.
Boston Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton,

I have received an intersessional vote started at Mardin. It is as follows:-

"The principalship of the Boys Evangelical High School at Mardin being now vacant,

Voted, That we nominate Dr. W. C. Dewey for that position & ask the Prudential Committee to appoint him for the ensuing term of four years, to end in July 1900."

This has received 8 votes, Bitlis & Van not yet heard from. As the mails are very irregular now from those points it may be a long time before their votes are recorded. I therefore report this at once & will report the votes from Van & Bitlis when they come in. In order that the vote have the requisite 5/6 vote it should have one more sig. i.e. 9 votes. Dr. Dewey does not record his vote & undoubtedly Van & Bitlis will favor it.

It is explained that by the constitution the nomination is made by the Station & E.T.M. & the Pru. Com. appoints. Dr. Gates was the last Principal & there has been no action up to the present taken

J. L. B.
Rec'd [illegible]
Ans'd [illegible]

to fill the vacancy.

Yours very truly
W. N. Chambers
Acting Mission Clerk.

Dec 26. The general amnesty is in process of being carried into effect. About 240 prisoners are to be released from this prison.

New years greetings,
W. N. C.

End
Part 2
Reel
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